



The Coming Spiritual Storm

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All words spoken by Jesus Christ are in **red text**.

Signs of the Last Days

The signs (indicators) of the last days are similar to what we see and experience when a storm is approaching. As clouds appear on the horizon an uneasy feeling begins to rise as ominous darkness approaches. Our senses confirm a storm is imminent as we witness flashes of lightening; followed by the sound and feeling of reverberating thunder. Our thoughts soon transition to concern and safety; as we determine what to do, and where to go, and where to hide to avoid harm.



Meanwhile, as the storm intensifies, the wind increases as the first droplets begin to appear. The amount of time between the visual flash of light and the sound of thunder continually decreases—reinforcing the fact that what was once far away is now very near—even at our doorstep. Our anxiety peaks when we hear a crackle in the air that is instantaneously followed by a bright flash of light and an explosion of sound. That which our senses predicted; that which caused us concern; and that which drove our behavior to seek shelter—is now upon us.

Many persons are aware of an approaching “storm;” see and have a conceptual understanding of “signs;” and are experiencing various degrees of a deep gut-wrenching fear due to pending unknowns. Unfortunately, due to our human nature it is much easier to live in denial (i.e. “sleepwalking”) than to take a good hard look at what’s going on in the world and prepare our heart for the One who will come in the twinkling of an eye. However, preparing for a physical storm is quite different from preparing for a spiritual storm. It is one thing to seek physical shelter from wind, rain, and lightening—but quite another to prepare for something we cannot directly see or touch—because what is occurring is driven by spiritual forces.

Simply stated, we are on the threshold of witnessing the fulfillment of Biblical prophecy as we enter into the last days. Those who know and heed the signs—and prepare their hearts—will be able to withstand the imminent storm. Those who do not will likely fall victim to the deception, and the desolation, and the destruction as Satan exercises unprecedented power and wickedness (via the beast and false prophet) during the last days.

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Spiritual Storm

As we experience and evaluate worsening global events it is important to remember what is occurring is not driven by man—it is driven by spiritual forces. “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.” Ephesians 6:12

This biblical truth will become increasingly evident as Satan will be allowed to exercise unprecedented power and darkness during the last days. He who now restrains Satan (the Holy Spirit), will no longer restrain him as we enter into the last days.

“And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.” 2 Thessalonians 2:6-12

Throughout time Satan has been constrained by God. These restraints are increasingly being taken out of the way as Satan seeks to (1) fulfill his vain desire to be worshipped as god, and (2) create deception, division, devastation, and death. But what is worse...Satan will implement a final and eternal means to spiritually and eternally separate all living persons via the mark of the beast (described in detail later). All persons will know the eternal consequences of the mark; and each will make a personal decision to either reject the mark and trust their Savior and Lord Jesus Christ, or accept the mark and worship the beast.

Last day signs and events is not easy to discuss, nor comfortable to consider, nor easy reading. By now you may be feeling an oppressive concern about the future—and rightfully so. Imagine what it's like as an obedient Christian writer—fully “immersed” in this future darkness—with a core desire to educate and warn anyone who will listen. There have been times when I read what I have written and cried. It's scary. In truth, it's very scary. But take a moment, stand back, and look at the big picture. We are a blessed generation in that we are able to directly witness the fulfillment of prophecy. God's Word is true, accurate, infallible, and eternal; and His love for us is far beyond all human comprehension. We can continue to live in fear or we can place our trust in the Creator of the universe; the One who is still in control; and the One who knows the number of hairs on our head. (Luke 12:7)

Sources of Last Day Information

There are two primary sources of information that will assist in evaluating what's going on in the world today:

1. Prophetic biblical scriptures regarding the last days:
 - a. Old Testament prophecy
 - b. New Testament prophecy
 - c. Words of Jesus
 - d. Seven Seals
2. Global changes:
 - a. Social
 - b. Economic
 - c. Political
 - d. Technological
 - e. Geologic

The Bible describes what will occur during the last days. For example, Jesus Christ provided us with signs to look for. The Old and New Testament also provides descriptive insight into what will occur as the light of God is increasingly replaced by the darkness of Satan during the Tribulation. As such, the content of this writing is based upon biblically-based last day signs. In addition, where possible, each sign is supported by correlative global changes. These global changes include social, economic, political, technological, and geologic transformations. Each will likely play a supporting role in preparing the nations for the entrance of the beast; provide him with power; and support the deployment of his mark.

You will find the content is based upon scripture and non-biased entities such as CDC (Center for Disease Control), USGS (U.S. Geological Survey), and so forth. However, there are some instances that are not easily discernable, and require an opinion. For example, how the beast may enter into power and how the mark of the beast may be implemented are not clearly defined in the Bible. However, due to the seriousness of these two topics, some discussion that defines various possibilities of how each may occur is warranted. As such, these sections are preceded by an explanation that the content is based upon an opinion. In addition, it is presented in a manner that does not define an absolute, and when possible explains different beliefs and ways the opinions may occur.

My compelling desire in writing this book is to provide you with information that will enhance and expand your spiritual understanding as you watch the last day signs occur.

This writing will be continually updated and uploaded to the www.UniqueBibleStudies.com website as events unfold and as the world changes.

The Beast and the False Prophet

Prior to learning about the last day signs, it is important to have a basic understanding of the beast and false prophet. Satan will be allowed to exercise an unprecedented degree of unrestrained power via the beast and false prophet. The beast will enter prominence because of many events. These events include, but are not limited to the following:

The Beast	Scripture
The beast will be revealed after the Holy Spirit is taken out of the way.	2 Thes 2:6-12, 2:1-5
Satan will give the beast his power, his throne and great authority.	Dan 8:24; Rev 13:2
The beast will make a covenant to resume sacrifices and offerings.	Dan 9:27
The beast will break the covenant after 3½ years have passed.	Dan 9:27
The beast will then reveal his true identity and will exert his authority, his will and his power over the next 3½ years as the "abomination that causes desolation."	Dan 9:27,12:11; 2 Thes 2:3-4; Mark 13:14; Matt 24:15; Rev 13:5-7
The beast will desecrate the temple.	Dan 11:31; Rev 11:2
The beast will stop the daily offerings to God.	Dan 9:27, 11:31, 12:11
The beast will set himself up in the temple.	Matt 24:15, Dan 9:27, 11:31, 12:11; Mark 13:14
The beast receives a fatal wound to the head, but it will heal.	Rev 13:3, 13:12
The healing will astonish the world, and they will follow the beast.	Rev 13:3
The world will worship Satan because he gave authority to the beast.	Rev 13:4
The world will also worship the beast because they believe that no comparisons exist that can defeat the beast.	Rev 13:4 & 8
The beast will speak highly of himself and will discredit and slander God and those in heaven.	Rev 13:5-6 II Thessalonians 2:4
The beast will have power to make war against the saints and to conquer them.	Rev 13:7

Revelation 13:11-18 reveals a second beast (the false prophet) will follow the first beast.

“Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived. He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed. He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666.”

The False Prophet Will:	Scripture
Have the same authority as the beast.	Rev 13:12, 13:14
Make the world worship the beast.	Rev 13:12
Perform great miracles and signs.	Rev 13:13, 19:20 Mark 13:22 II Thess 2:9
Cause fire to come down from heaven to earth in full view of all.	Rev 13:13
Deceive the world.	Rev 13:14, 19:20
Create a statue in honor of the beast because the beast was wounded and yet lived.	Rev 13:14
Give breath to the statue so that it can speak.	Rev 13:15
Cause all who refuse to worship the statue to be killed.	Rev 13:15, 20:4
Compel all to receive a mark.	Rev 13:16
Not allow anyone to buy or sell unless they receive the mark on their right hand or forehead.	Rev 13:17

Note that there are three evil beings who will rule over all nations during the last days of the Tribulation. Satan, the beast and the second beast (false prophet) will combine to form an unholy trinity in direct opposition to the Holy Trinity of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Satan will give to the:

- Beast charisma charm, magnetism, and political power.
- False prophet the power to perform miracles and power to enforce edicts (the mark).

Jesus was asked on numerous occasions to produce a sign or a miracle to prove that He was who He claimed to be. But Jesus replied that it is an evil and adulterous generation that seeks and demands a sign. (Matthew 12:39, 16:4; Luke 11:29) The false prophet will give them the signs they are looking for, and the beast will not be whom he portrays, nor will he do what he promises.

Jesus	The Beast
Jesus spoke to our hearts.	The beast will speak to our flesh.
Jesus spoke of peace for the saints.	The beast will proclaim war against the saints.
Jesus sought to eliminate idolatrous worship in the temple.	The beast will destroy the rebuilt temple.
Jesus came to save the lost.	The beast will seek to destroy the saved.
Jesus spoke truth.	The beast will deceive.
Jesus pointed the way toward Heaven.	The beast will point the way to hell.
Jesus glorified God.	The beast will glorify Satan.

What's sad is that even though the indisputable last day signs will make it difficult for anyone to refute Biblical prophecy is being fulfilled and the end times are at hand—many will exercise their free will and decide not to believe.

As we decline into the last days, it may be compared to what occurs at dusk as the light of day transitions into the darkness of night. As the sun disappears on the horizon you are less able to discern that which is around you. You are able to move about, but you do so with caution because your ability to see is more difficult because of less light. As time advances light becomes continually dimmer. The familiar shapes

(which once provided points of reference and direction) soon change into unfamiliar silhouettes. Meanwhile, as you continue to walk you do so with greater caution, taking smaller steps. Once the light is completely gone you may find yourself cautiously shuffling your feet—and possibly going in a different direction than planned—with outstretched arms and grasping hands attempting to make sense of where you are. That which you knew, that which you understood, that which provided reference points and direction in your life are no longer visible...as the world enters into the last days.

As such, it is imperative for each Christian to realize, understand, and view the world through scripture and fulfillment of prophecy. The continually-worsening, unimaginable, and horrific events occurring in the world are driven by dark spiritual forces—as Satan and his demonic minions are allowed to deceive those who will perish—and are able to destroy by demonic possession of those who are deceived.

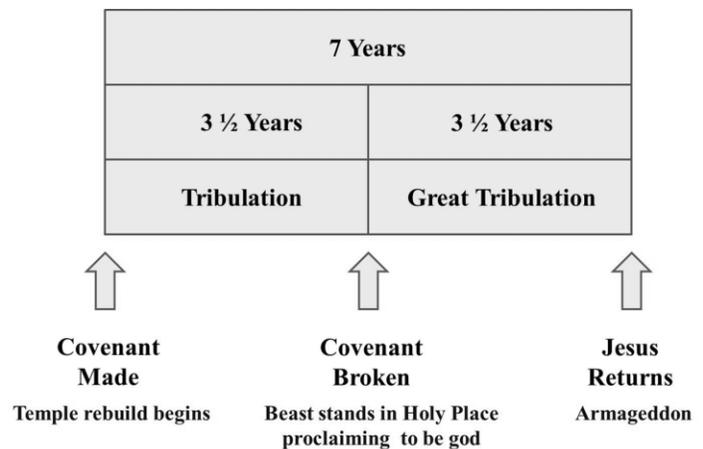
All God's promises will be fulfilled. God made a covenant (Genesis 15:18 and Joshua 1:4) with Abram (Abraham) in that Abraham's seed (the Israelites) would possess all the land of the Palestinians (the West Bank and Gaza), plus some of Egypt and Syria, plus all of Jordan, plus some of Saudi Arabia and Iraq. Throughout time Israel has never possessed all this land, and currently possesses only a fraction of the land God promised. The fulfillment of this covenant will occur when Jesus Christ—the Messiah and Anointed One—will return to destroy all of Israel's enemies (Revelation 19) and reign over the nations (Revelation 20).

Jesus Christ first came as the sacrificial Lamb of God—for the atonement of our sins. He will return with power and great glory as the Lion of Judah—and will fulfill the Abrahamic Covenant.

What Defines the Last Days?

God’s word defines a specific and significant event that will begin a 7-year period (i.e. “one week” in Daniel 9:27) that encompasses the last days. This event (called the Tribulation) will begin when a covenant (agreement, promise, pledge) is made between the beast and the nation of Israel that will allow the resumption of sacrifices and offerings—which mandates the rebuilding of the Jewish Temple on the Temple Mount. This covenant is extremely significant. It is a fulfillment of prophecy; it is an indicator of the beginning of the Tribulation; and it is an indisputable sign of the last days. In addition, the beast’s covenant will initiate the rebuilding of the Temple for sacrifices and offerings—which may take less than 3 ½ years to complete. 3 ½ years after the covenant is made the beast (the abomination that causes desolation) will break the covenant, desecrate (damage, defile) the temple and will stand in the holy place proclaiming to be god. This second half of the Tribulation (called the Great Tribulation) will be a time of great distress that will transcend all of time (past and future). At the end of the Tribulation Jesus Christ will return with power and glory to pour out his full wrath upon the desolator (battle of Armageddon).

“Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week, he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate.”
Daniel 9:27



The word tribulation is defined as distress, suffering, hardship, and pain. But the severity of living during this seven-year period will progressively exceed these descriptive terms—

and will be a period of time unlike any that has ever existed—nor will it occur again. Throughout time Satan’s full power has been restricted. His chains will be released during the Tribulation which will enable him to completely unleash his anger, hatred, and revenge in seeking to cause desolation upon all inhabitants of the world. But what’s even more important to Satan—he will execute his greatest deceptive lie of all time: to stand in the holy place (the rebuilt Temple) proclaiming himself to be God (via the beast). Satan’s long-awaited and vain attempt to declare to the world that he is god will commence the midpoint of the 7-year Tribulation. However, during his short-lived attempt, God’s wrath will increasingly pour out upon the earth and upon those who accept the mark and worship the beast. These final 3 ½ years will conclude with the return of Jesus Christ when the armies of Satan are defeated.

Note: One week equates to 7 years. 3½ years is described in the Bible as 1,260 days; 42 months; and a time, and times, and half a time.

Last Day Signs Revealed by Jesus Christ

The disciples asked Jesus about what will occur (signs) of the last days. His response is documented in Mark 13, Luke 21, and Matthew 24. Mark 13:5-36 is provided below and on the next page. You should also read all of Luke 21 and Matthew 24.

“And Jesus, answering them, began to say: ‘Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am He,’ and will deceive many. But when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be troubled; for such things must happen, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be earthquakes in various places, and there will be famines and troubles. These are the beginnings of sorrows.’”

“But watch out for yourselves, for they will deliver you up to councils, and you will be beaten in the synagogues. You will be brought before rulers and kings for My sake, for a testimony to them. And the gospel must first be preached to all the nations. But when they arrest you and deliver you up, do not worry beforehand, or premeditate what you will speak. But whatever is given you in that hour, speak that; for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. Now brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. And you will be hated by all for My name’s sake. But he who endures to the end shall be saved.”

The Great Tribulation

“So when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not” (let the reader understand), “then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let him who is on the housetop not go down into the house, nor enter to take anything out of his house. And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! And pray that your flight may not be in winter. For in those days there will be tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the creation which God created until this time, nor ever shall be. And unless the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake, whom He chose, He shortened the days.”

“Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or, ‘Look, He is there!’ do not believe it. For false christs and false prophets will rise and show signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. But take heed; see, I have told you all things beforehand.”

The Coming of the Son of Man

“But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars of heaven will fall, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. And then He will send His angels, and gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest part of earth to the farthest part of heaven.”

The Parable of the Fig Tree

“Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender, and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. So you also, when you see these things happening, know that it is near—at the doors! Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.”

No One Knows the Day or Hour

“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is. It is like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to watch. Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming—in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning—lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping. And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!”

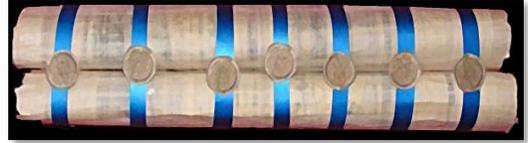
Disputable vs. Indisputable Signs

The 21 last day signs are segmented into two categories: 15 disputable last day signs and 6 indisputable last day signs. The reason they are called “disputable signs” is skeptics will attempt to dispute these signs by arguing they have occurred throughout history (which is true). However, these “disputable” last day signs will occur more frequently and with more intensity as a prelude to the last days—similar to the increased frequency and increased intensity of labor pains when a woman gives birth. Jesus said in Matthew 8:24 (NIV): “All these are the beginning of birth pains.” But more important, skeptics will not be able to make a valid argument against the indisputable last day signs. Their only option will be to spin the truth into a lie (which is what Satan has done throughout time—starting with his deception of Eve in the garden).

In addition, it is difficult to create a sequential order of the last day signs. Some may precede others, while some may occur at the same time. Plus, some indisputable signs may occur before disputable. For example, it is possible the covenant to resume sacrifices and offerings (an indisputable sign) may precede some disputable signs. The important point is to know the signs and watch for them—for they are God’s prewarned indicators of the last days.

A possible means to determine the sequence of some of the last day signs is found in Revelation 5 and 6. Jesus Christ—the only One who is worthy—opens a scroll with 7 Seals. As each seal is broken more power is given to the beast, and the world deteriorates into deeper darkness.

“And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, ‘Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?’ And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it. So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it. But one of the elders said to me, ‘Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.’ And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain. Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.” Rev 5:1-7



The Seven Seals:

- Seal 1: Antichrist is released (note: the antichrist is also called the beast)
- Seal 2: People kill one another
- Seal 3: Famine
- Seal 4: More power to kill
- Seal 5: Believers in Jesus Christ will be killed
- Seal 6: Defines a massive global earthquake
- Seal 7: Describes a short time of silence before the seven trumpets are sounded

Seals 1-6 correlate to six of the disputable last day signs that are listed in the table on the next page (disputable signs 1-4, 12 and 13). Seal 7 correlates to the last indisputable sign (when the beast stands in the Temple and declares he is god). As such, for these signs I will include a reference to the corresponding seal as each sign is described (indicated by the graphic below).



Disputable Last Day Signs		Supporting Scripture
Deception		Mark 13:5,6; Luke 21:8; Matthew (Matt) 24:4,5,11,24; 2 Thessalonians (Thes) 2:3-12; Revelation (Rev) 12:9, 13:14, 19:20
Wars and rumors of wars		Mark 13:7, Luke 21:9, Matt 24:6
Famines		Mark 13:8; Luke 21:11; Matt 24:7
Nations against nations, kingdoms against kingdoms		Mark 13:8; Luke 21:10; Matt 24:7
Pestilences		Luke 21:11; Matthew 24:7
Fearful sights and great signs from heaven		Mark 13:22; Luke 21:11,25; Matt 24:24
The gospel preached in the whole world		Mark 13:10; Matt 24:14; Rev 14:6-7
Knowledge shall increase		Daniel 12:4
False christs and false prophets		Mark 13:6,21,22; Luke 21:8; Matt 24:4,5,11,23-24; 1 John 2:18
Many abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits		1st Timothy 4:1; Matt 24:12
Increased wickedness		Matt 24:12; 2nd Timothy 1-5; Jude 1:17-19
Persecution of Christians		Mark 13:9,11-13; Luke 21:12-17; Matthew 24:9-10
Great earthquakes		Mark 13:8; Luke 21:11; Matt 24:7
Sign of Israel		Amos 9:11-15; Luke 21:29-33; Mark 13:28-30; Matt 24:32-34
Israel surrounded by armies		Luke 21:20

Indisputable Last Day Signs		Scripture
A covenant is made to allow sacrifices and offerings		Daniel 9:27
Rebuilding of the Temple		Daniel 9:27; Mark13:14; Matt 24:15
God's Two Witnesses		Rev 11:3-6
The beast will implement his mark		Rev 13:16-17
The covenant will be broken		Daniel 9:27,11:31,12:11; Mark13:14; Matt 24:15
The beast will declare he is God		Dan 9:27, 12:11; 2 Thes 2:3-4; Mark 13:14; Matt 24:15; Rev 13:5-7



Disputable Last Day Signs

To facilitate recognition as you read, each last day sign is **highlighted**.

Deception

When the disciples asked Jesus about the last days...His very first words were **"Take heed that no one deceives you."** Mark 13:5 Jesus continued by describing various last day signs. But He began with a warning about deception.

Deception is defined as an act of making someone believe something that is not true; to mislead by false statement or appearance.

Deception is the means by which Satan causes eternal spiritual death. Jesus Christ clearly defined the persona of Satan: **"He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it."** John 8:44

"So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him." Revelation 12:9

Satan will deceive via the beast and the false prophet (the unholy trinity), fallen angels and demonic spirits. They will collectively deceive by lies, misrepresentations, miracles and wonders, and power—by craftily leveraging man’s sinful nature—all with the purpose of causing desolation, destruction and death (physical and spiritual). Lies will be declared as truth and truth will be “spun” as lies. Those who are deceived will make a decision to reject Jesus Christ...and will put their trust in a lie.

As we enter into the last days—and as delusional darkness attempts to overshadow the light of Christ—it will become more difficult to separate truth from lies. This is why it is important for all Christians to foundationally build their lives upon God’s word (His truth).



1st Seal: Antichrist is Released

The first seal correlates to the warning of deception by Jesus.

“Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, ‘Come and see.’ And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.” Revelation 6:1-2

This is when “He who restrains” (the Holy Spirit) will begin to release His control over Satan. This is when the lawless one with unrighteous deception (the beast / antichrist) will be revealed.

“And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.” 2 Thessalonians 2:6-12

The color of white (the color of the horse) is commonly associated with “good.” To an unsuspecting world the beast will initially position himself as one who is good; and one who can benefit those who are under the jurisdiction of his crown.

The bow is symbolic of a weapon. However, note he is not given an arrow (which is the part of the weapon that kills). Here are some possible reasons:

- The Holy Spirit is still in control and limits his ability cause death.
- The bow is a sign of strength and an ability to overcome.
- It is prudent not initially position himself as a threat.

Note he is given a crown—which represents positional power. He did not achieve this crown on his own. But rather, it was given to him. As such, it is important to remember GOD IS IN CONTROL as you continue to read (and witness the fulfillment of) the signs of the last days.

The rider of the white horse will seek to conquer: to overcome and defeat his enemies and/or that which he deems wrong.

Regardless how the antichrist (beast) positions himself on the global stage—he will not be whom he portrays—because he will be a physical manifestation of Satan. [“For Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.” 2 Corinthians 11:14](#)

My opinion: I think it is reasonable the first Seal will be opened prior to the covenant with Israel to resume sacrifices and offerings (the first indisputable sign and prior to the beginning of the Tribulation). My rationale is based upon a belief the antichrist will be directly involved with various aspects of structuring and implementing the covenant.

Wars, and Rumors of Wars

[“But when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be troubled; for such things must happen, but the end is not yet.” Mark 13:7](#)

To understand the degree of Satan’s deceptive influence upon wars, simply consider past wars. Every skirmish, every battle and every war throughout time began as a deceptive lie in darkened minds. For example, Adolf Hitler deceived the nation of Germany. He drove the world into war by leveraging the pride and anger of the German people (who were humiliated by the loss of WWI and despised the unfair constraints imposed by the Treaty of Versailles). Adolf Hitler’s rally cry (1) leveraged the nation’s pride and anger (sinful flesh), and (2) was based upon the deception of Germany’s return to greatness and world dominance. As he gained power, deeply entwined within Hitler’s satanic-driven deceptive rhetoric was the message that Jews were to blame for Germany’s problems. More than 60 million persons died in WWII—including 6 million murdered Jews. Overall estimates are as high as 80 million when deaths due to war-related disease and famine are included...all because of a lie.

Sources:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_II_casualties;

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Holocaust

America is not immune in that it has also been led into wars based upon deceptive non-truths. For example, consider the concept of the “domino theory” which (at that time) justified our involvement in the Korean and Vietnam Wars. The domino theory is based upon the idea that once a country falls into communism, other surrounding countries will also fall into communism—like a stacked line of dominos—if America does not intervene. The Korean War is still “technically” active. America lost the Vietnam War. It is estimated more than 2.8 million persons died in the Korean War. Estimates range between 2 and 4 million persons died in the Vietnam War from 1955 to 2002.

Sources:

<http://www.cnn.com/2013/06/28/world/asia/korean-war-fast-facts/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vietnam_War_casualties

Now consider the consequences of the growing number of deceived Islamic extremists and terrorists—across the globe—who are driven by the following convictions:

- Christian-Jewish alliances are conspiring to destroy Islam.
- Totalitarian interpretation of Islam—including global control via Islamic (Sharia) law.
- They are religiously sanctioned to kill anyone who does not adhere to their beliefs.

A new dimension of war began on September 11, 2001—when 19 Islamic militants (all affiliated with the radical Islamic terrorist group al-Qaeda) hijacked four airliners and carried out suicide attacks against targets in the United States killing more than 3,000 persons. On September 20, 2001 President George W. Bush declared “War on Terror.” Since this declaration other nations have joined the fight, and this war continues today.

Consider the influence of the words “weapons of mass destruction” upon our involvement in attacking Iraq in 2003—which turned out to be untrue. The removal of Saddam Hussein—a brutal and murderous dictator—has since unleashed years of repressed hatred, and violence, and wars between various factions in the region. Although estimates vary widely, it is safe to say hundreds of thousands of persons died in the Gulf War.

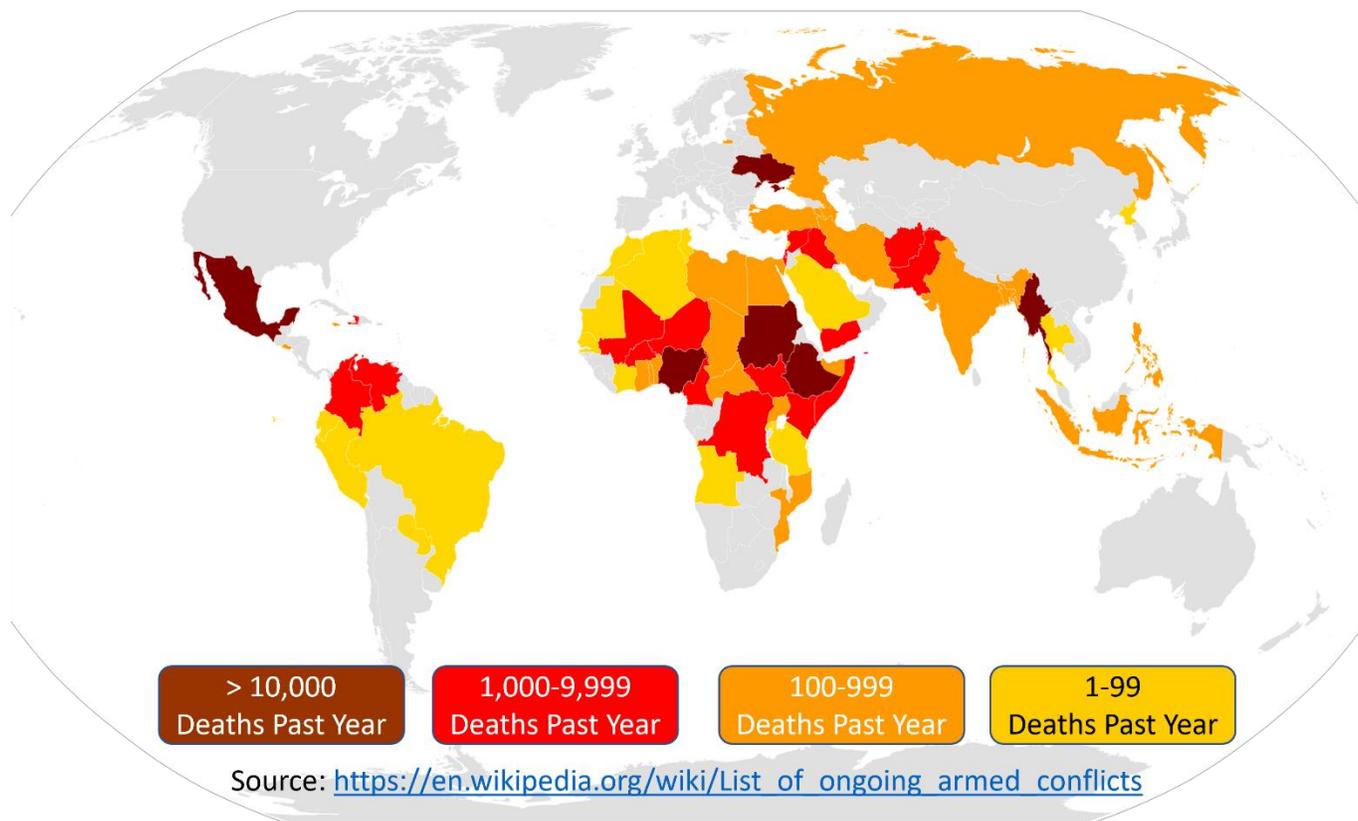
Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Casualties_of_the_Iraq_War

It is important to understand the intent here is to not make a political statement as to whether or not America should have participated in a war. The objective is to uncloak the source of spiritual wickedness in high places that deceive the world. We can all attest to the influence of Satan based upon our own personal lives, experiences, and daily “battles.” However, with regards to groups of people, countries, and nations—Satan’s preferred method of mass desolation, destruction, and death is to instigate wars based upon deceitful lies. What’s more, the present war against terrorism is different from all past wars for the following reasons:

1. The terrorist’s organizational structure is decentralized and geographically dispersed.
2. You cannot kill a spirit—because it simply moves into another willing host.

The same dark spiritual forces that are driving these present-day murderers were instrumental in deceiving and controlling the heart, and soul, and mind of Hitler and Putin. Absolute hatred—combined with mind controlling fear within a hierarchy of power—has provided justification, supported the means, and driven many to murder innocent persons in the past, present, and future.

The graphic below depicts the world-wide status of deaths due to ongoing wars, battles and skirmishes as of January, 2020.



The tables below list 4 categories of deaths due to ongoing wars, conflicts and skirmishes. The cumulative totals include the number of deaths since the year each war began.

Data Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_ongoing_armed_conflicts

Major wars greater than 10,000 deaths 2022-2023			
Name	Started	Death Estimates	
		2022-2023	Cumulative
Myanmar	1948	13,988	180,000
Africa (Multiple Countries)	2002	20,359	54,000
Mexico (Drug Wars)	2006	13,671	69,000
Russia Ukraine	2014	112,322	180,000
Ethiopian Civil Conflict	2018	12,794	117,000
War in Sudan	2023	11,501	11,501
	Total	184,635	611,501

Wars with 1,000 to 9,999 deaths 2022-2023			
Name	Started	Death Estimates	
		2022-2023	Cumulative
Israeli-Palestinian Conflict	1948	6,674	27,000
Columbian Conflict	1964	2,390	453,000
Afgan Conflict	1978	2,358	1,453,000
Somali Civil War	1991	11,774	350,000
Allied Democratic Forces	1996	4,042	9,000
Nigeria Conflicts	1998	3,250	19,000
Ituri Conflict	1999	2,351	65,000
Iraqi Conflict	2003	1,902	332,000
Kivu Conflict	2004	4,331	25,000
Sudanese Conflicts	2008	3,116	387,000
Boko Aharam Insurgency	2009	10,680	368,000
Syrian Civil War	2011	6,596	505,000
Nigerian Bandit Conflict	2011	3,200	14,000
Yemeni Civil War	2014	6,224	377,000
Gang War in Haiti	2020	1,694	3,700
	Total	70,582	4,387,700

Conflicts with 100 to 999 deaths 2022-2023			
Name	Started	Death Estimates	
		2022-2023	Cumulative
Kurdish Separatism in Iran	1918	304	15,000
Jamican Political Conflict	1943	318	1,081
Indo-Pakistani Wars	1947	701	200,000
Balochistan Insurgency	1948	664	20,800
N.E. India Insurgency	1954	484	40,000
Papua Conflict	1962	181	100,000
Naxalite-Maoist Insurgency	1967	416	12,877
Philippines Civil Conflict	1969	1,010	165,000
Kurdish-Turkish Conflict	1984	491	55,000
Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict	1988	893	39,300
Khyber Insurgency	2004	1,873	46,000
Libyan Crisis	2011	98	30,000
Sinai Insurgency	2011	289	6,000
Central African Civil War	2012	1,258	14,000
Northern Chad Insurgency	2016	137	644
Philippine Drug War	2016	516	32,000
Cabo Insurgency	2017	968	6,000
Anglophone Crisis	2017	877	6,000
Bangladesh Drug War	2018	554	800
Salvadorian Gang War	2022	149	152
Las Anod Conflict	2023	343	343
Total		12,524	790,997

Skirmishes with less than 100 deaths 2022-2023			
Name	Started	Death Estimates	
		2022-2023	Cumulative
Korean Conflict	1950	46	3,000,000
Katanga Insurgency	1963	4	3,400
West Sahara Conflict	1970	70	14,000
Cabinda War	1975	84	30,000
Peru Conflict	1980	77	70,000
Casmance Conflict	1982	43	5,000
Lord's Insurgency	1987	1	100,000
Bangladesh Conflict	1999	57	1,500
Niger Delta Conflict	2003	94	2,500
South Thailand Insurgency	2004	73	7,294
Paraguay Insurgency	2005	13	145
Rio de Janeiro Conflict	2006	126	700
Egypt Insurgency	2013	17	5,800
North Caucasus Insurgency	2017	16	200
Total		721	3,240,539
Combined Totals		268,462	9,030,737

Notes :

- Due to uncertainties and “fog” of war, all deaths are estimates. Some estimates include ranges of deaths. For this exercise I used the lower number in each range to arrive at a conservative estimate. As such, the number of deaths are likely more.
- This information was updated in October, 2023. Therefore:
 1. The Russian Ukrain war does not reflect the latest death counts (which are significant).
 2. The Israeli-Palestinian war does not reflect the latest death counts (which are significant).

The data in the first writing of this lesson was based upon data collected in 2019. Listed below are the key changes in the data between 2019 and 2023.

Year	# Wars Listed	Recent Deaths	Cumulative Deaths
2019	45	117,254	4,856,594
2023	56	268,462	9,030,737

The number of listed wars increased by 24%. The number of recent deaths in 2023 is inflated because the recent death data combines years 2022 and 2023 (2019 recent deaths included 1 prior year). However, the number of cumulative deaths increased by 86%. Given the present global instability—combined with the hate-filled aggression between nations—a significant increase in the number of wars and cumulative deaths in the past 4 years is likely accurate. But what is more important to understand, this data reflects Satan’s objective, his influence, and his success in causing people to kill one another—and it will get worse.



People Kill One Another

The sign of wars and rumours of wars correlates to the second seal (people kill one another).

“When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, ‘Come and see.’ Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that people should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword.” Revelation 6:3-4

The fiery red horse symbolizes the blood that is shed. The rider is given the ability to remove peace on earth via death caused by humans. This rider’s influential strength to remove peace and cause people to die is represented by a great sword (a weapon that causes death). But what’s more, when this occurs, global peace will no longer exist upon earth until after Jesus Christ returns.

During the last days, the overall perception towards human life will become increasingly darkened and distorted. Not only have persons been killed via wars, battles, conflicts and skirmishes—recently they have also been murdered via suicide bombers, mass shootings (including children in schools), and random killings. Unfortunately, the number of these events have reached the point where some persons have become numb to this type of shocking and unimaginable behavior.

I am disheartened by the fact that many churches and synagogues now employ police officers to protect attendees during services, or strategically position members who are carrying a concealed weapon.

Consider for a moment the demonically tormented mind (and degree of hatred) of someone who could justify the killing of another—which defies all rational thought. This delusional behavior is driven by demonic lies that provide mental justification for the murderous acts.

These trends are indicators of what’s to come as Satan and his minions will be allowed to increasingly exercise their darkest desires—motivated by absolute hatred—as they deceive, destroy, desolate, and cause the death of a large percentage of those upon earth (the 4th seal on the next page).

Famine

“For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be **famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.**” Matthew 24:7

A famine is a widespread scarcity of food caused by one or more of the following calamitous (catastrophic, disastrous, earth-shattering, and devastating) events: natural disasters (earthquakes, draught, etc.), conflict (wars), displacement of persons (refugees), and rising food prices. Consequences of famines include malnutrition, starvation, epidemics, and increased mortality.

As calamitous last day events increasingly (and simultaneously) occur, food production and distribution will be severely impacted, people will flee to avoid battles, and prices for food will greatly increase—resulting in a scarcity of food and famine.



Famine

The third sign correlates to the third seal.

“When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, ‘Come and see.’ So I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, ‘A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine.’” Revelation 6:5-6

The color of the black horse represents mourning and evil. Scales are used to weigh food that is sold at inflated prices (a consequence of low supply and high demand). The oil and wine convey an increased separation between rich and poor—which is also a consequence of calamitous events.

Nation vs. Nation, Kingdoms vs. Kingdoms

“But when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be troubled; for such things must happen, but the end is not yet. For **nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.**” Mark 13:7-8

The degree of strife, tension, and justification for going to battle will escalate as larger and more powerful nations will join forces to kill one another—all deceived by a lie—resulting in death and destruction that will far exceed past wars.



More Power to Kill

The fourth sign correlates to the fourth seal.

“When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, ‘Come and see.’ So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.” Revelation 6:7-8

As darkness darkens, the beast will be given power over ¼ of the earth to kill by various means.



There are many possibilities for fulfillment. However, remember the final battle will be in Israel as the kings and the whole world will be gathered together in Armageddon (Megiddo). Revelation 16:16

Pestilences

“For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, **pestilences**, and earthquakes in various places.” Matthew 24:7

Merriam-Webster dictionary defines pestilence as a contagious or infectious disease that is virulent and devastating. An example of pestilence is an outbreak of bubonic plague (caused by bacteria that was transferred to humans from rats and other rodents) that occurred during the 14th century in Europe. Called the Black Death (because of the occurrence of bleeding below the skin which darkened their dying bodies), it is estimated to have killed more than 50 million persons and is considered one of the most devastating pestilences in human history. Today, the bacteria that is responsible for the Black Death is treatable with antibiotics.

You would think over time we would not encounter new pestilences. However, HIV (AIDS) was discovered in the United States during the mid-to-late 1970s. Within the US, the 2017 CDC statistics are as follows:

- 1.8 million new cases of HIV
- 36.9 million people living with HIV
- 940,000 people died from AIDS-related illnesses
- Estimated total: 35 million died from AIDS-related illnesses

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/statistics/overview/index.html>

There are now more than 1 million persons aged 13 years and older who are living with the HIV infection, and there are about 50,000 new HIV infections per year. Globally, there are more than 35 million people with HIV.

Source: <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/statistics/basics/>

Ebola hemorrhagic fever, discovered in 1976, is a severe and fatal disease. In 2014 the largest Ebola outbreak in history occurred in multiple countries in West Africa. Although multinational efforts have been deployed to stop Ebola; outbreaks are continuing to occur.

Sources:

<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/outbreaks/2014-west-africa/cumulative-cases-graphs.html>

<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/outbreaks/2014-west-africa/>

A new disease has been recently discovered. MERS (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome) is a deadly viral respiratory illness, was first reported in Saudi Arabia in 2012 and has spread to other countries, including the United States. The largest known outbreak of MERS occurred in the Republic of Korea in 2015.

Source: <http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/mers/>

Additional viruses that are causing concern (and to watch) include Chikungunya, Dengue, West Nile, and Zika.

Source: <http://www.cdc.gov>

Superbugs: Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria

Although HIV, Ebola, MERS, and other diseases cause great concern—these are relatively small when compared to the potential devastating consequences of antibiotic resistant bacteria.

Bacteria are microscopic, single-celled organisms that live in the environment and in people. Many bacteria are harmless; some are good; and others (called pathogens) can cause death by producing toxins and/or invading tissues.

Antibiotics have saved countless lives because they either kill pathogens or stop pathogens from multiplying. The first antibiotic, Penicillin, was introduced in the early 1940s. During the past eighty years multiple antibiotics have been introduced that have saved countless lives. However, during the past few years doctors and scientists have seen an increase of mutated pathogens that have become resistant to antibiotics—called “superbugs.”

An example of a superbug is MRSA. Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (also referred to as “Staph”) is bacteria that has become resistant or immune to most antibiotic drugs; and can cause serious life-threatening infections (such as skin infections, bloodstream infections, pneumonia, and surgical site infections). This is the bacteria responsible for the “flesh-eating” disease covered recently in the news.

Source: <http://www.cdc.gov/mrsa/>

The World Health Organization recently published a list of 12 antibiotic resistant bacteria that pose the greatest threat to human health. These 12 were selected because of their levels of antibiotic resistance, mortality rates, and burden they place on health systems.

<http://www.who.int/medicines/publications/global-priority-list-antibiotic-resistant-bacteria/en/>

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

On December 31, 2019, Chinese authorities alerted the World Health Organization of an outbreak of a new coronavirus, subsequently named SARS-CoV-2 (or COVID-19). As of October 18, 2023 (almost 4 years later) there have been more than 771 million confirmed cases of COVID-19, and almost 7 million deaths. (Source: World Health Organization <https://covid19.who.int/?mapFilter=deaths>)

Covid brought the world to its knees. Although the COVID-19 vaccine has greatly reduced the severity of illnesses and number of deaths; COVID-19 has not been eradicated, it continues to be transmitted, it has mutated into different variants, and will continue to infect and kill persons in the future.

But what’s more, consider the psychological, economic, political, and social impact of COVID-19—which continues to have an influence on various aspects of life today.

Note: As you read the news, consider how wars, famine and pestilences are:

1. Continuing to grow in areas of the world.
2. Synergistically “link together” to deepen devastation and human misery.

Fearful Sights and Great Signs from Heaven

“Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be great earthquakes in various places, and famines and pestilences; and there will be **fearful sights and great signs from heaven.**”
Luke 21:10-11

When you think about it...it will require unprecedented and extraordinary events to cause the world to succumb, idolize and worship the beast...far more than what has been used by “politicians” in the past.

Deception—in many forms—will increasingly occur during the last days. Satan, the beast, and the false prophet (the unholy trinity)—and demonic spirits—will collectively deceive the world by demonstrating spectacular world-wide events that conveys the beast’s Satan-bestowed power—all with the intent of causing desolation, destruction, and death. These events will cause fear and amazement of every tribe, people, language, and nation. These events will also cause the world to worship the beast because they believe that no comparisons exist that can defeat the beast. (Revelation 13:4 & 8)

He will cause great miracles and signs	Rev 13:13, 19:20, Mark 13:22, II Thes 2:9
He will cause fire to fall from heaven to earth in full view of all	Rev 13:13
The beast will receive a fatal wound to the head, but it will heal	Rev 13:3 & 13:12
The healing will astonish the world and will follow the beast	Rev 13:3

The Gospel Preached in the Whole World

Jesus said, “**And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.**” Matt 24:14

“Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—saying with a loud voice, ‘Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.’” Rev 14:6-7

Because of the light of Jesus, those who follow Him will be able to see in the ever-increasing darkness, and will understand what is occurring. They will not be deceived by the beast as he enters prominence and power, and will understand the 7-year clock begins when a covenant is made to resume sacrifices and offerings. This is when Christians will boldly speak to anyone who will listen, and to those who will not listen. They will warn against the beast, his mark, and the consequences; they will explain God’s grace and eternal salvation in Jesus Christ; and will proclaim Jesus is coming soon. This effort—combined with the ministry of the Two Witnesses (described later)—plus God’s unprecedented pouring of His Spirit upon all flesh (including demonstrations of His signs and wonders)—will proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the world unlike any time in history!

“And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams. And on My menservants and on My maidservants, I will pour out My Spirit in those days; and they shall prophesy. I will show wonders in heaven above and signs in the earth beneath: blood and fire and vapor of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord. And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” Acts 2:17-21

Knowledge Shall Increase

God provided Daniel with information that was not to be revealed until the last days.

“But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and **knowledge shall increase.**” Daniel 12:4

There are varied interpretations of Daniel 12:4. For example, some believe the words “run to and fro” depicts physical movement, which is plausible. Plus, the reference to an increase in knowledge (i.e. general knowledge in technology, sciences, and so forth) during the last days is also reasonable (because this is occurring at an exponential rate).

However, there is an additional possible interpretation when you consider Daniel 12:4 in the context of the spiritual chaos and confusion that will occur during the last days. In other words, the knowledge of the Gospel of Jesus Christ shall increase. For example, consider the overall tense and worrisome “atmosphere” as each last day sign is fulfilled—especially when the mark of the beast is introduced. Consider the ministry of Christians and the Two Witnesses (described later) as they proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and warn of the consequences of the beast and his mark. Consider the amount of fear each person will experience as they weigh their two eternal options: accept or reject the mark. Consider the vacillation of thinking...back and forth...to and fro...as each person weighs the benefits and costs. Consider the degree of pull on each person’s heart—and the gut-wrenching turmoil and fear—because they must make an eternal decision. Due to a desire to fully understand both sides of the decision equation, many will read (and listen to those who teach) God’s word as they actively seek to increase their knowledge of who Jesus Christ was, is and will be—plus understand the personal relevance of His death on the cross.

False Christs and False Prophets

Jesus said, “**For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am He,’ and will deceive many.**” Mark 13:6

“**Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or, ‘Look, He is there!’ do not believe it. For false christs and false prophets will rise and show signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. But take heed; see, I have told you all things beforehand.**” Mark 13:21-22

During the last days deceiving demonic spirits will dilute (weaken) Christian efforts by portraying themselves as Jesus Christ; declaring they are the Messiah; and proclaim they are speaking what God has told them. What’s more, some will perform signs and wonders to enhance their deceptive illusion. Many persons will be deceived, led astray and will perish into darkness because of false doctrine.

Jesus warned us to heed (pay attention to, observe) so that no one deceives us. As such, it is imperative to intimately know God’s word (from Genesis to Revelation) and test everything that occurs and everything that is said against scripture. With regard to the lying and deceiving who claim to be Jesus— Jesus will not step foot upon this earth until after the Battle of Armageddon—when He will return in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory which will occur: **“For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.”** (Matthew 24:27; Luke 17:24).

Born-again Christians who have actively yielded to His Lordship...know His voice and the voice of an imposter.

“I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own.” John 10:14

“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.” John 10:27

Many Will Abandon Their Faith and Will Follow Deceiving Spirits

Unfortunately, there are many who claim to be Christian; but they lack a foundational understanding of the Bible; and have not relinquished their heart to Jesus. These are they who are likely to abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits.

Jesus provides an insightful explanation as to why people respond in different ways to the gospel in Matthew 13. The parable of a sower correlates the seed that is sown (God’s word); four different types of ground where the seed lands (people); and how the seed responded for each type of ground (degree of spiritual growth of each person).

Where Seed Landed	What Happened to the Seed	Comparative Spiritual Growth
Wayside	Does not take root because birds consume the seed	Hears but does not understand. Satan steals what was sown.
Stony Places	Takes root among what little earth there is among the rocks.	Receives with joy. Because there is no “depth” is unable to withstand tribulation or persecution.
Among Thorns	Takes root, but thorns stop growth.	The seed takes hold, but the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches chokes fruitfulness.
Good Ground	It takes root and grows.	Hears, understands, and bears fruit for the Kingdom of God.

When you consider the first three types of ground it becomes easier to understand why many will abandon their faith and will follow deceiving spirits. Those who have not purposefully allowed God's word to take root deep into their soul...will find it difficult to determine truth as deceptive lies captivate them.

How to Test False Doctrine

Christians must base their faith upon sound doctrine; they need to know God's word (by reading the Bible); and must continually watch and test every spirit.

“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.” 1 John 4:1-3

“For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore, it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.” 2 Corinthians 11:13-15

True spiritual leaders focus on Jesus Christ (God's Son), who came in the flesh, lived among us, and gave His life as a sacrifice for our sins—so that we can be eternally forgiven.

In addition, the following key points (which comprise the Gospel of Jesus Christ) defines the foundational core message of accurate biblical teaching. If these messages are not proclaimed...they are likely a deceiver.

1. We are all sinners due to our sinful nature.
 - “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Romans 3:23
 - “Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.” Romans 5:12
2. We are saved by God’s grace; it is a gift of God and not earned by works.
 - “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23
 - “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.” Ephesians 2:8
3. God’s grace and forgiveness is received by believing (having faith) in what Jesus Christ did for us on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins.
 - “Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’” John 14:6
 - “He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.” John 3:36
 - “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.” John 1:12
4. Transformation begins when we ask Jesus Christ to enter into our heart and change us from within.
 - “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.” Revelation 3:20
 - “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” 2 Cor 5:17
5. Jesus Christ—the Anointed King—will soon return to reign over His Kingdom for eternity.
 - “Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed.” Daniel 7:14
 - “Behold, the days are coming,” says the Lord, “That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper, and execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell safely; Now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.” Jeremiah 23:5-6
 - “Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.” Isaiah 9:6-7
 - “He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.” Luke 1:32-33

6. Do not accept the mark, do not worship the beast.

- “He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.” Revelation 13:16-17
- “Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, ‘If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.’” Revelation 14:9-11

False “spiritual” leaders will dilute and distract from His truth during the last days. Therefore, it is imperative that you know God’s word (the Bible) and test their words and behavior against scripture. Do not consider one’s personality, intellect, physical attributes, charisma, or capabilities.

The table below will assist in determining what is truth and what is a lie.

What to Analyze	Sound Doctrine	Deceiving Doctrine
1. Origination of Doctrine	Originates with God	Originates with man/demon
2. Based upon the Word of God	Authoritative source is the Bible	Human precepts and teachings and / or some content is sourced outside the Bible
3. Consistency with the Bible	Consistent with the complete Bible	Inconsistent and will discount, disagree or conflict with parts of the Bible
4. Spiritual Status	Drives godly living	Weak and ungodly living
5. Uncomfortable Test: There is a feeling of uneasiness, discordance, and something does not seem right (deep in your heart, soul and spirit). This experience is difficult to explain, but many can relate. This is when you need to pray and ask the Holy Spirit to provide an insightful revelation of the truth, wisdom and guidance.		

Increased Wickedness

“But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: for men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!” 2 Timothy 3:1-5

Jesus said “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.” John 8:12

“And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.” John 3:19-21

As sin consumes a person’s life—darkness oppresses the Light—thereby giving Satan greater control to deceive, destroy, and dominate the behavior of those whom he owns.

Darkened Transformation of Social Norms

The description of behavior in Timothy 3:1-5 (above) describes today’s accepted (and promoted) cultural norms; is reflective of what is portrayed on today’s television; and exemplifies the persona of Satan. As we move into darker days ahead—and as man’s sinful nature is allowed free reign—the listed behavioral characteristics will become more prevalent.

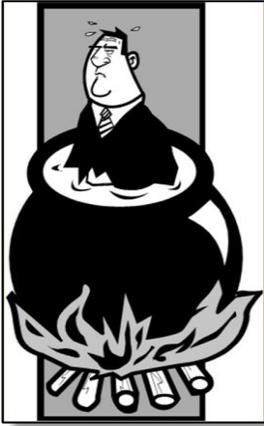
To enhance awareness of the continually-increased wickedness within our society, simply compare the content (and messaging) of today’s television shows against past program content. Television has mirrored the current attitudes and opinions of our society and has been instrumental in directing our values and beliefs as well.

For example, during the early 1960s a backlash occurred the first time an exposed back-side of an infant was shown during a television commercial. It raised so much negative response that the incident received a significant amount of press. The issue here is not the incident itself, but rather, the social norms and moral values of our society during that period.

During the late '60s and early '70s we began to see and hear of free love and open relationships on television. We also witnessed behavior on television programs that was slightly beyond the socially accepted limits of our society. Although it may have conflicted with our beliefs, we watched anyway. Once considered socially acceptable, additional social boundaries were then crossed.

During the '80s, '90s and '00s, our moral values and perceptions of reality were diluted even more by programs that continued to push the boundaries of socially acceptable behavior farther and farther away from the will of God.

Now consider where we are today. When you look at old television programs they seem “corny” when compared to today's program content. However, this trend will continue as today's content will also become "old-fashioned" when compared against future social norms portrayed in the media.



Not only is it easier to implement change within a society if it is introduced in small portions, it is also easier to increase the degree of change with each new generation of children. Consider for a moment how our children view the behavior in today's media. They have nothing to compare it against. And unless instructed to the contrary, what is portrayed on television is all considered normal and acceptable.

If you place a frog in a cool pan of water and slowly turn up the heat, the frog will stay in the pan until the water reaches boiling, meanwhile killing the frog. However, if you place the frog in a boiling pan of water, it will immediately jump out of the pan.

Psychological studies (and common sense) have proven changes in social norms (including last day transitional changes) are more easily introduced and accepted over time if they initially occur in smaller and less obvious increments—followed by additional changes that continue to push slightly beyond the “boundary of acceptability.” Acceptance and even approval of gradual changes occur because we are less sensitive to them and are preoccupied with what we consider to be more important issues in our day-to-day living. Like the frog, we may realize it is getting warmer, but "So what, it does not seem much different than it was just a short time ago."

Suppression of Expression

It will become increasingly difficult for Christians to share Jesus Christ during the last days because of an ongoing social trend—which began a few years ago—that supports suppression of expressing personal beliefs that are considered offensive or controversial. Political correctness has defined and imposed limits on acceptable language and terms used in public discussion (i.e. via television, radio, newspapers, and so forth). Anyone who has spoken outside these constantly-constricting limits have been verbally attacked and ostracized. While some of the comments made by public personalities warranted a response in order to enlighten, the punishments mandated by opposing views included public apologies and immediate firings. These “public events” have had an impact on a personal level. On one side, individuals are less likely to express their faith for fear of reprisal. On the other side, those with opposing views are more likely to repress someone for their beliefs.

This suppressive trend is exemplified by the increase of negative characterizations of Christians in the media. Christians are portrayed as trying to judgmentally force their “perception of reality” or “values” on others. Once called homophobic, Christians are now increasingly referred to as a hate group.

As it becomes progressively dark, it is very important for Christians to remember their past sinful lives when communicating God's expression of grace and love in Jesus Christ. No one has the right to judge someone—only God.

Jesus said before his death on the cross, “Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.” (Luke 23:34) His words reveal that He knew His executors were living in darkness. He knew the horrific torture they just gave Him was due to their blindness of the Truth. He knew Satan was using them as pawns to accomplish his vain attempt to eliminate Him. He knew what He was about to accomplish would provide a means for them to be forgiven; and so He prayed to the Father for their forgiveness as he was dying on the cross.

Prior to speaking, evaluate your thoughts, motivations, and behavior; and make sure they are aligned with the attributes of the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance. (Galatians 5:22-23) Is your heart filled with compassion or condemnation; or worse: hate. If your heart is not filled with compassion remember the following: (1) only agape love can break through one’s “defenses,” (2) the Holy Spirit is the only One who convicts a person of their sin and guides them into truth. (John 16:8)

Persecution of Christians

Jesus warned Christians will be persecuted during the last days. They will make a stand against the beast; they will disavow his mark; and they will declare truth as lies are increasingly portrayed as reality. As such, Christians will become a target by those who have decided to reject the truth.

“But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons. You will be brought before kings and rulers for My name’s sake. But it will turn out for you as an occasion for testimony. Therefore settle it in your hearts not to meditate beforehand on what you will answer; for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. And you will be hated by all for My name’s sake.” Luke 21:12-17

Satan’s overall objective is twofold: to be worshiped as God; and use those who are deceived to desolate, destroy, and kill as many as possible during the time he is allowed. Satan will drive divisional “wedges” of hatred between family members and friends. As the degree of his prominence is increased, the degree of persecution will also increase—shaking the very foundation of each believer’s faith, and every organization that represents Jesus Christ.

“And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.” Revelation 20:4



Martyred Christians

“When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. And they cried with a loud voice, saying, ‘How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?’ Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.”
Revelation 6:9-11

Absolute hatred within those who are deceived will result in the creation of various means to justify persecution and killing of Christians. This justification includes (and is not limited to) the following:

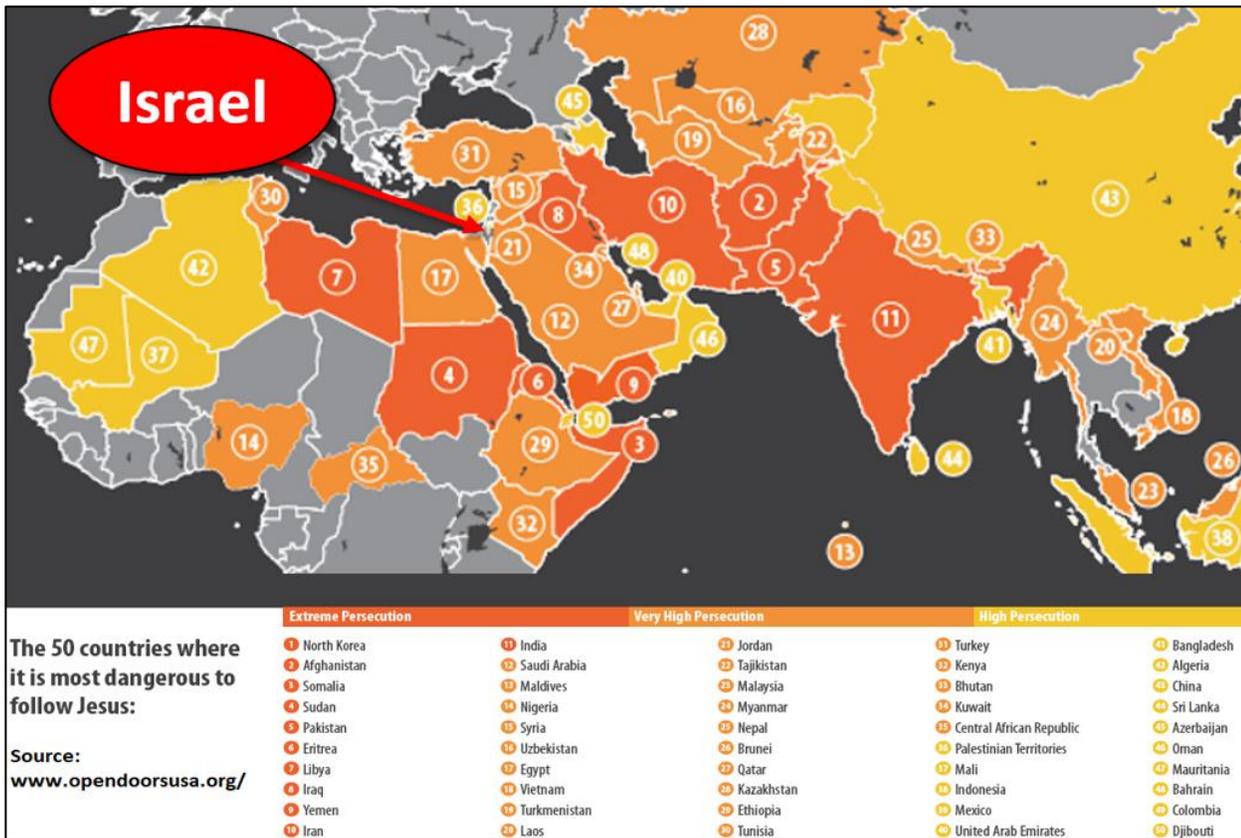
- Religious mandates (example is the present behavior of radical Muslims/terrorists)
- Christians blamed for existing problems (same means used by Hitler to murder Jews)
- Christians will likely be portrayed as “being a roadblock to progress” (as they make their stand against the beast, declare God’s truth, and reject the mark)
- Christians will refuse to worship the beast

Those who claim they are a Christian and have built their faith upon sand (and not the Rock) will find it extremely difficult to withstand the rain, and the floods, and the tornadic winds of the last days. Christians who read and know God’s word—and does what God says—are more likely to endure the hardships that will occur during the Tribulation.

“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.” Matthew 7:24-27



Christian persecution is occurring today, and has been growing in various parts of the world. Consider the news reports and videos of 20 Christians beheaded for their faith by radical Islamic extremists in February, 2015. Not just a simple murder—but the severing of the head while they were alive—exemplifies absolute delusional darkness. These past atrocities against Christians—combined with the other indiscriminate murderous attacks—are only a “slight gust of wind” and prelude of the coming spiritual storm.



The graphic above depicts 50 countries where it is dangerous for Christians—rated by extreme, very high and high persecution. A few examples are provided below.

Country	Type of Persecution
North Korea	Imprisonment & torture who do not worship the nation's leader.
Afghanistan	Christians are rejected by family or killed.
Somalia	Islamist group al-Shabab will kill a suspected Christian.
Sudan	Converting from Islam to Christianity is punishable by death.
Pakistan	Christian women and children are targets of abuse.
Eritrea	Many Christians have been attacked, tortured, and imprisoned.
Libya	Islamic converts risk being killed. Evangelism and Bibles are illegal.
Iraq	Public executions of Christians by Isis have occurred.
Yemen	Tribal leaders & al-Qaida kidnapped and killed Yemeni Christians.
Iran	Christians are treated as second-class citizens.
India	Christians who convert from Hinduism are attacked; homes destroyed.

The following links provide up-to-date information on Christian persecution.

Christian Persecution Websites:

- <https://www.opendoorsusa.org/christian-persecution/world-watch-list/>
- <http://www.persecution.org/>

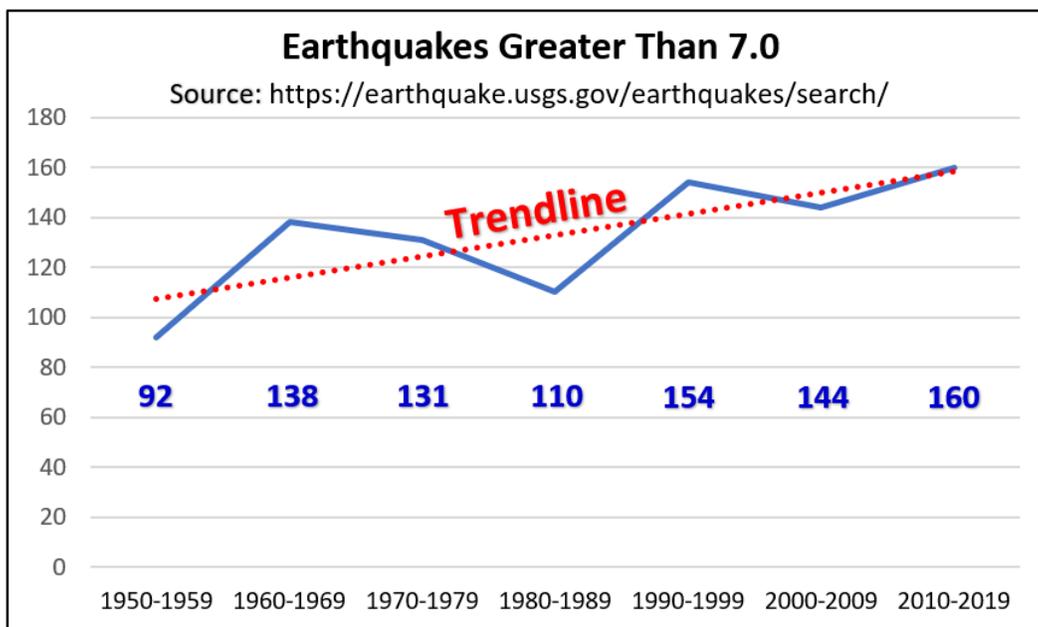
Great Earthquakes

Jesus said “And there will be **great earthquakes** in various places, and famines and pestilences; and there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven.” Luke 21:11

Many earthquakes occur daily across the globe. Most of these cannot be felt, and some occur in remote regions. However, earthquakes greater than 7.0 on the Richter Scale are noteworthy because they can cause damage and death.

Earthquakes rated 7.0-7.9 are considered “major” and will cause damage to most buildings. Some will partially or completely collapse or at least receive severe damage. Even well-designed structures are likely to receive damage. Earthquakes rated 8.0 and higher are considered “great” and will cause major damage to buildings and infrastructure is destroyed.

The graphic below depicts earthquakes rated greater than 7.0 during the past 7 decades.



Note the upward trendline depicted in the graph. Plus, the average number of earthquakes that have occurred since January 1, 2010 exceeds the number of each of the past six decades.

Watch for large earthquakes to occur more often in populated areas during the last days. These earthquakes will cause a significant loss of life, major damage to infrastructures, will devastate economies, and will have global repercussions.



Massive Earthquake

“I watched as he opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red, and the stars in the sky fell to earth, as figs drop from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind. The heavens receded like a scroll being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and everyone else, both slave and free, hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. They called to the mountains and the rocks, ‘Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can withstand it?’” Revelation 6:12-17

Consider the following:

1. Geologists studying the San Andreas Fault (which runs through Southern California) have recently discovered major earthquakes have occurred every 47-129 years. The last 7.9 earthquake in Southern California occurred in 1857, or more than 157 years ago. The human and global financial repercussions of a major earthquake in Southern California will be felt by everyone.
2. Yellowstone National Park is considered a super volcano that has the potential to cause global climate changes if it erupts. The last eruption was 640,000 years ago, leaving a crater that is 30 by 45 miles.

The Sign of Israel

The Nation of Israel is referred to as the “fig tree” in scripture: Jeremiah 24:1-10; Hosea 9:10; Luke 13:6-9. Jesus also referred to Israel as a fig tree and as a sign of the last days.

“Then He spoke to them a parable: ‘Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. When they are already budding, you see and know for yourselves that summer is now near. So you also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near. Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.’” Luke 21:29-33

When considering last day events, it is important to understand the relationship God has with the Jewish people—His chosen unto Himself.

“For you are a holy people to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth.” Deuteronomy 7:6

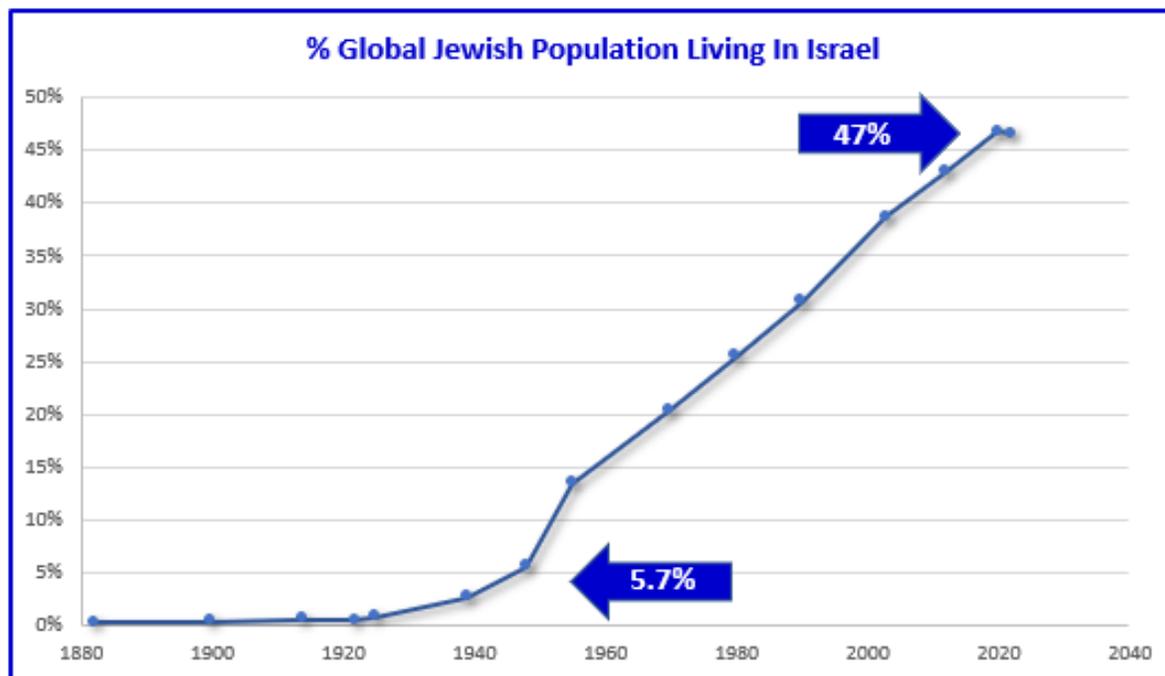
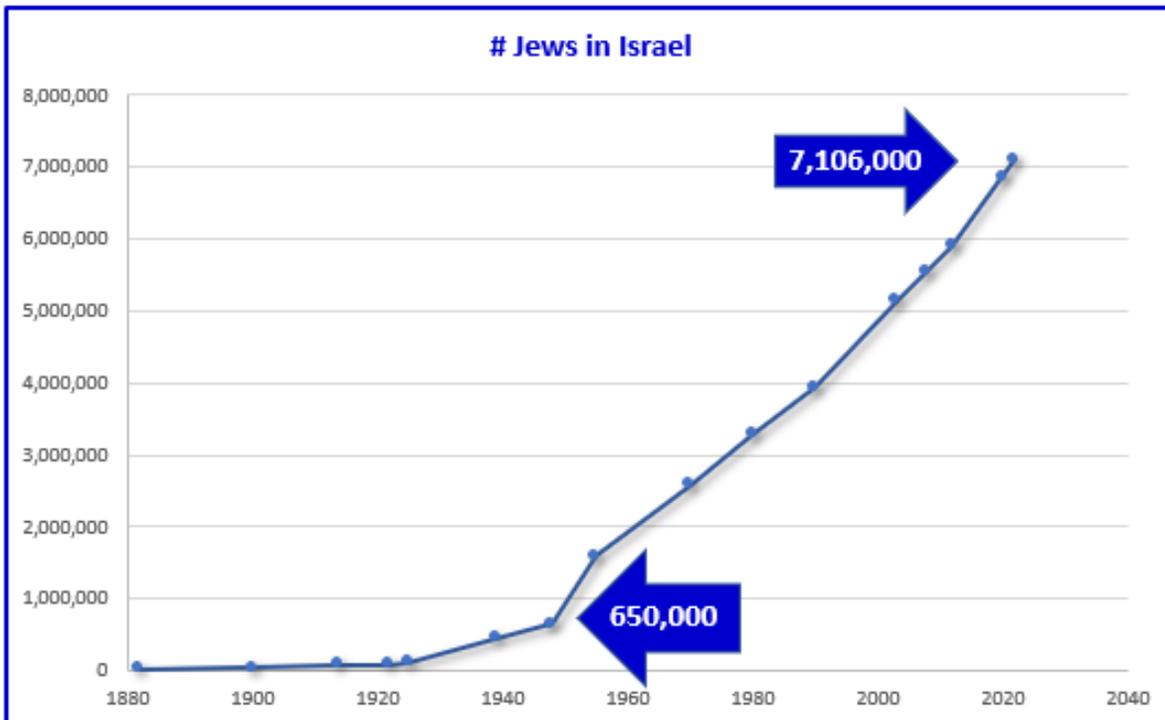
It is also important to understand the promises God made towards the Israelites. God made a promise with Abraham—giving his decedents (the Jewish people) the land of Israel. “To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates.” Genesis 15:18

God also made a promise to remove Israel's enemies. "Moreover, I will appoint a place for My people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own and move no more; nor shall the sons of wickedness oppress them anymore." 2 Samuel 7:10

God also promised a King from David's line (Jesus Christ) will rule Israel for eternity. "He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever." 2 Samuel 7:13

As such, all of creation will be focused upon the nation of Israel and the Israelites during the last days—for God's covenants with His beloved will be fulfilled. Jesus warned the Temple would be destroyed (Matthew 24:2). The Roman army destroyed the Temple and took over the territory in 70AD. Thereafter the Jewish people no longer had a homeland and were forced to move and were scattered to different parts of the world. However, on May 14, 1948 the State of Israel was formed, and those who were dispersed would once again be able to live in the land God gave Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Since this time Jewish people have been returning to their homeland.

In 1948 (when the state of Israel was formed) 650,000 Jews lived in Israel (5.7% of the global population of Jews). These numbers doubled within a couple of years (1.37 million). There are now more than 7 million Jews living in Israel (almost half of the global population of Jews). God is bringing Jews back to their homeland.



Source: <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jewish-population-of-israel-relative-to-world-jewish-population>

“On that day I will raise up the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down, and repair its damages; I will raise up its ruins, and rebuild it as in the days of old; that they may possess the remnant of Edom, and all the Gentiles who are called by My name,’ says the Lord who does this thing. ‘Behold, the days are coming,’ says the Lord, ‘When the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him who sows seed; the mountains shall drip with sweet wine, and all the hills shall flow with it. I will bring back the captives of My people Israel; they shall build the waste cities and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and drink wine from them; they shall also make gardens and eat fruit from them. I will plant them in their land, and no longer shall they be pulled up from the land I have given them,’ says the Lord your God.” Amos 9:11-15

Israel produces 95% of its own food requirements and is a major exporter of fresh produce. This is a blessing (and fulfillment of Amos 9:11-15) when you consider 20% of the land is arable, the climate is not suitable for food production, and water is scarce.

Source: http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Society_&_Culture/israel_palestine_pop.html
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agriculture_in_Israel

“Therefore, know that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments.” Deuteronomy 7:9

Israel Surrounded by Armies

Jesus said, “But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near.” Luke 21:20



The above map depicts the very small Nation of Israel which is surrounded by Islamic countries.

Israel's enemies can be divided into two groups:

- Historic Islamic enemies: Egypt, Syria, Iran, Jordan, and Turkey
- Islamic terrorist organizations: The PLO, Hamas, Fatah, Hezbollah, al-Qaeda, and ISIS

Since 1948 Israel has had to fight eight wars; has had to respond to a significant number of attacks; and has had to endure constant religious and civil unrest. Today, Israel represents a stronghold that is in the way of Islamic extremist aspirations—a global Caliphate—where all of mankind is under Islamic (Sharia) law.

Sources:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_wars_involving_Israel

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_the_Israel_Defense_Forces_operations

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Worldwide_caliphate

Israel-Hamas War (October, 2023)

The events of the last days will increase the focus upon Israel—and upon those nations that hate Israel. At the time of this update, Israel and the surrounding Muslim countries may be compared to a “powder keg with a lit fuse,” as Israel prepares to enter into Gaza to rid the territory of Hamas (who recently murdered innocent persons and took hostages).

Meanwhile, the United States is backing Israel militarily and with financial assistance. This unnerving scenario could possibly expand into an expanded war if one of the neighboring nations decide to attack Israel or American assets in the region.

Note: The following is an opinion based upon rationalized thought.

The present situation in the Middle East (or one like it), may provide an opportunity for “one” to negotiate peace in the region. The Israelites have been unable to resume sacrifices and offerings since the Temple was destroyed in 70AD, almost 2,000 years ago. What’s more, their access to the Temple Mount (where the Temple once stood) is restricted. As such, the Jewish nation of Israel greatly desires to rebuild the Temple and comply with the requirements defined in the Old Testament to receive forgiveness of sins.

Given the mutually-exclusive demands by various factions within the region, Israel will likely need to give up something (such as land and control over the land) in order to gain full control of the Temple Mount.

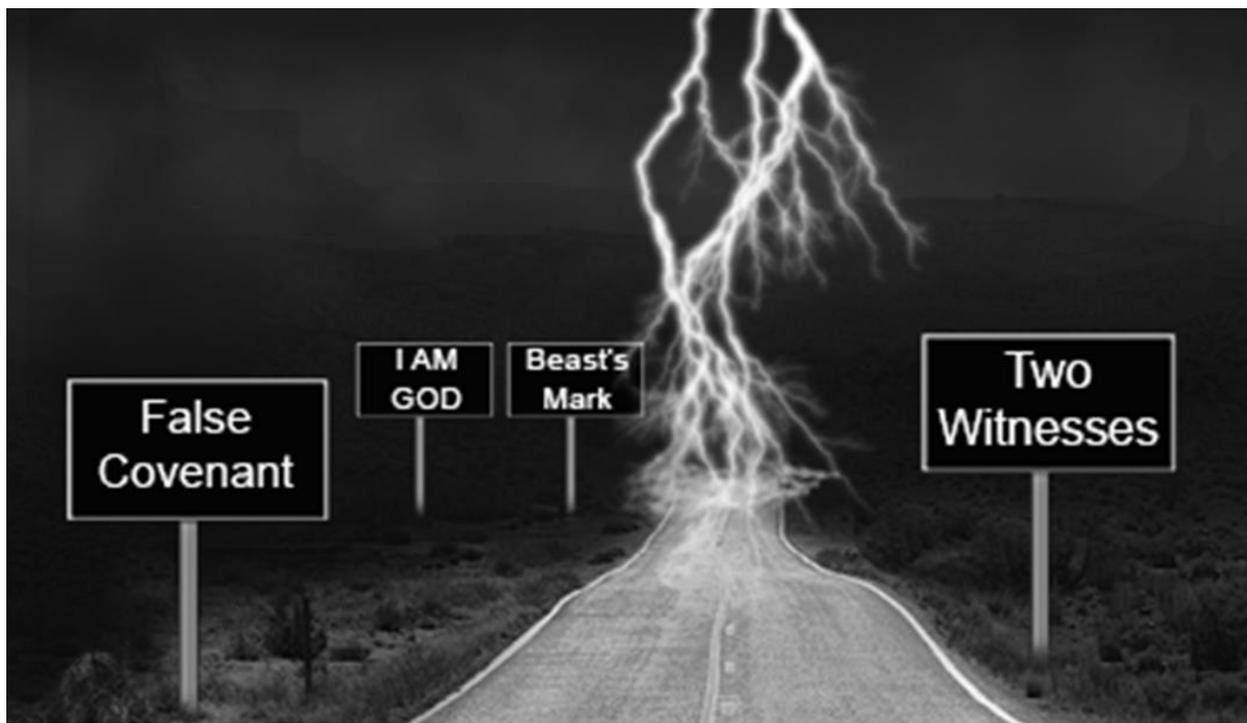
Regardless of what means an agreement is achieved, an agreement to resume sacrifices and offerings—including the rebuilding of the Temple—will occur. This agreement is referred to in this writing as the “False Covenant” because it will be a lie, it is an indisputable sign, and is explained in the next section.

Indisputable Signs

Skeptics will point out that the aforementioned (wars and rumors of wars, false messiahs and prophets, calamitous events, pestilences, earthquakes, increased wickedness, and so forth) have occurred in the past and are “nothing new.” And yes, they are correct. However, these signs will occur with more intensity (and with more impact) during the last days.

For those who argue nothing is different from what it has been in the past, the following indisputable signs will provide absolute proof of the last days:

- **A covenant will be made to allow sacrifices and offerings** (Daniel 9:27)
- **Rebuilding of the Temple** (Daniel 9:27; Mark13:14; Matthew 24:15)
- **Two Witnesses** (Revelation 11:3-6)
- **Beast’s Mark** (Revelation 13:16-17)
- **The covenant will be broken** (Daniel 9:27, 11:31, 12:11; Mark13:14; Matt 24:15)
- **I Am God** The beast will declare he is god, blaspheme God and will wage war against God’s holy people (Dan 9:27, 12:11; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4; Mark 13:14; Matt 24:15; Rev 13:5-7)



False Covenant

“Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate.” Daniel 9:27

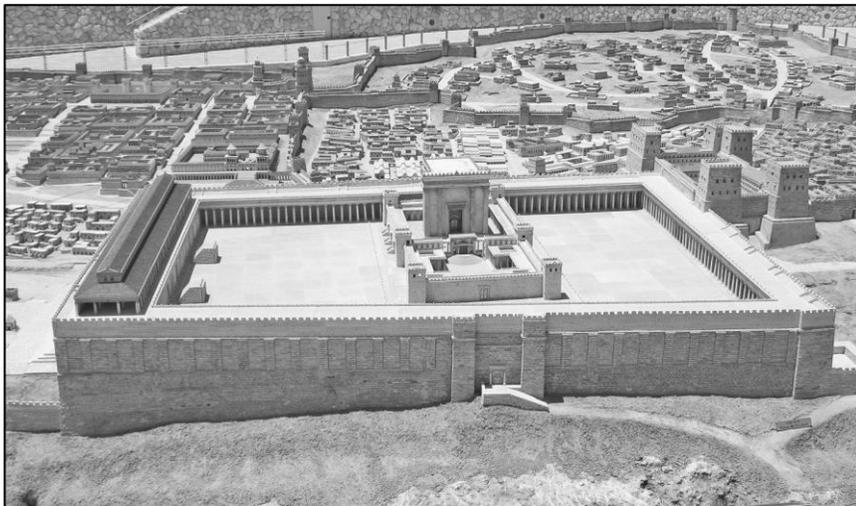
A covenant (promise, pledge) will be made by the beast for Jews to resume sacrifices and offerings. This covenant necessitates the rebuilding of the Temple (to comply with biblically-defined Old Testament requirements for sacrifices and offerings). However, the beast (with pre-knowledge) will not keep the covenant—which means the covenant will be a lie from the beginning (i.e. “false” covenant). What’s more, the beast’s covenant to resume sacrifices and offerings is a devious and deceptive lie to those who believe sacrificing animals is still God’s means to receive forgiveness of sins. Jesus described Satan in John 8:44: “He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.”

In other words, the beast’s promise to resume sacrifices and offerings will be an absolute lie on two levels. First, the beast knowingly plans to break his promise. And second, his false promise will propagate misinformation in that sacrificing animals will cover sins. The sacrificial death of Jesus Christ—the Son of God—the new covenant—is now the only means to receive forgiveness for sin.

“Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah—not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.” Jeremiah 31:31-33

The Jews rejected Jesus because they assumed the Messiah would be a warrior king—one that would free them from the bondage of their earthly enemies. They were expecting power and strength and were not looking for a humble and unassuming servant. Like all of us at various times in our lives, the Jews were focused on the physical realm and failed to see God was fulfilling His promise on a spiritual realm. Jesus Christ is now the only means one may seek forgiveness. Life and living are determinate upon the desires of our heart and about loving Him who first loved us. True freedom comes from breaking the oppressive bonds of sin; developing a relationship with our Creator; and knowing we are eternally forgiven by the sacrificial blood that was shed by Jesus Christ.

Rebuilding the Temple

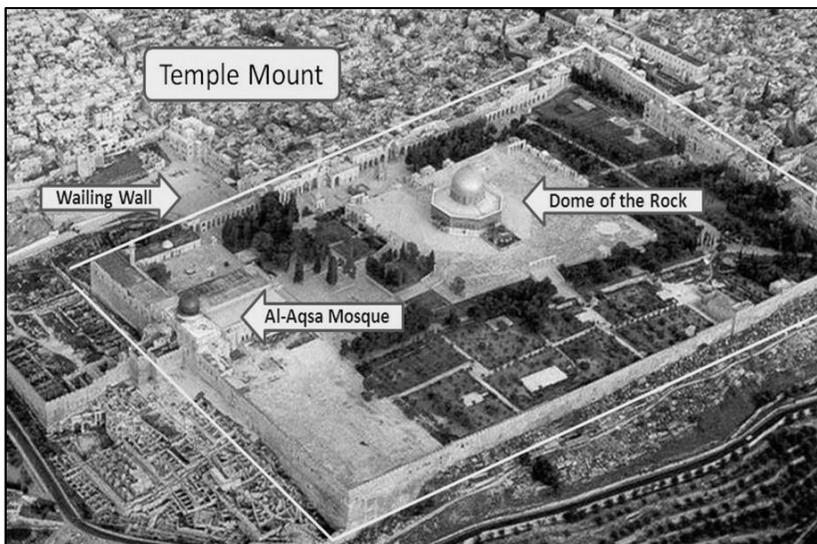


Picture Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Second_Temple_view.jpg#filelinks
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holyland_Model_of_Jerusalem

The above picture depicts a model (located in the Israel Museum) of the second Temple prior to its destruction (which was prophesized by Jesus). “Then, as some spoke of the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and donations, He said, ‘These things which you see—the days will come in which not one stone shall be left upon another that shall not be thrown down.’” Luke 21:5-6

Temple Mount Today

The Temple was destroyed in 70AD and has not been rebuilt. This present-day picture of the Temple Mount (where the Temple was located) shows Islamic buildings used for Muslim worship. The Temple Mount is considered holy and sacred by Muslims and Jews. No other holy site, no synagogue or house of study is comparable to the sanctity of the Temple Mount. The Dome of the Rock (a Muslim shrine) was built on the Temple Mount in 691 AD. A



Muslim mosque, Al-Aqsa, was also built on the Temple Mount in 705 AD. Since this time the Temple Mount has been managed by the Muslim community of Jerusalem. During the 1967 Six-Day War Israel captured the Temple Mount together with all of East Jerusalem and the West Bank from Jordan. Soon thereafter, the Israeli government gave control of the site back to the Muslim community of Jerusalem.

Today, the Waqf (a Jordanian-run Islamic trust) manages the Temple Mount. Non-Muslims have limited access to the Temple Mount during certain hours and on certain days in the week. In addition, Israeli

government has specific restrictions that forbid Jewish prayer on the Temple Mount and from carrying any form of religious artifact or anything with Hebrew letters. Israeli police bar a Jew from praying "in any overt manner whatsoever on the Temple Mount, even if he is just moving his lips in prayer." As such, the religious and historical meaning of the Temple Mount has been a point of contention between Israelites and Muslims—both claiming rights of ownership and worship.

The Temple Institute is comprised of Jews who are dedicated to rebuilding the Temple in Jerusalem—including exact restoration and construction of biblically-defined Temple service vessels. What's more, they are also raising sacrificial heifers. The Temple Institute's website is an excellent source for up-to-date information regarding the status of the Temple. (<https://www.templeinstitute.org/>)

The Temple is the holiest and last place where God dwelt amongst the people; and is the most relevant place on earth for the beast to declare he is God. As such, Satan (via the beast) will either present himself as one who cares about the plight of the Nation of Israel and understands their longing to resume sacrifices and offerings, and/or will present himself as one who is seeking peace in the Middle East. However, one must first consider what has occurred in the past and what is occurring in the region today in order to fully understand the "obstacles" that need to be overcome to fulfill this prophecy.

There has been constant strife, turmoil and polarization in the region since 1948—the year the Nation of Israel was formed. Israel has been surrounded by enemies on every side, greatly outnumbered, and have endured repeated attacks and wars.

What's more, consider the multiple attempts to negotiate peace throughout the years:

- The Rogers Peace Plan and the Sadat Initiative (1970-1972)
- Madrid Peace Conference of 1991
- Oslo Peace Accords 1993
- The Hebron and Wye Agreements 1996-1999
- Camp David Summit 2000
- Taba Summit 2001
- Beirut Summit 2002
- Road Map for Peace 2002
- Israeli–Palestinian Talks 2007 and 2009
- Direct Talks 2010 -2014
- Abbas (the President of the State of Palestine) Peace Plan 2014

From 1970 until the present time equates to more than 50 years of attempts to negotiate a solution. However, recently there are new highly-volatile variables that are jeopardizing what little "stability" there is in the region—and which has global repercussions. ISIS—who will execute anyone who does not agree with their radical beliefs—including Muslims—has taken over half of Syria, much of Iraq, and is spreading. They are also in Jordan, Afghanistan, Libya and Yemen. Add to this volatile mix the potential of a nuclear-armed Iran and we now have a powder keg and a lit match that can easily light the fuse. In addition, now that multiple countries have joined military efforts to destroy ISIS; Only God knows how this will play out.

What is important is to (1) understand the increasing instability in the region, and (2) watch. Given the fact that it seems impossible to achieve peace in the region; and given the fact that God's word that states

there will be a resumption of sacrifices and offerings; it will require great military power and/or unprecedented negotiation skills to broker a deal “...with the many.” Daniel 9:27

The Two Witnesses

God’s absolute authority and power will be demonstrated and seen by all people, and kindreds, and tongues, and nations during the last days. As sin and darkness increases, God will send two witnesses who will prophesy for 3½ years. The two witnesses will demonstrate divinely-appointed power; declare to the world what will occur in the future; proclaim His truth; and provide spiritual strength to the saints during the Tribulation. But what’s more, the world will see them ascend into Heaven.

“And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth. And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner. These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire.” Revelation 11:3-6

God’s empowered witnesses will be clothed in sackcloth: a biblical symbol of humbleness and mourning. Although not stated, it is likely their prophetic words and testimony will encompass one or more of the following:

- The true nature and intent of the beast
- The consequences of worshiping the beast and accepting his mark
- How God will pour out His wrath upon the earth
- Jesus Christ—the King of kings and Lord of lords—is the only means of salvation
- The Kingdom of Jesus Christ is imminent

Some will attempt to harm the two witnesses. However, they will have the ability to destroy their enemies and perform miracles as proof of their divinely-spoken words and appointed purpose. Their prophetic words and demonstrated power will strengthen the resolve of the saints to hold onto their faith and resist the beast and his mark—and will reinforce the hatred of those who will perish.

Meanwhile, due to the testimony of the two witnesses and the efforts of the saints—the message of Jesus Christ will reach the entire world.

Jesus said, “And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.” Matthew 24:14

The Gospel of Jesus Christ

1. We are all sinners due to our sinful nature.
“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Romans 3:23
2. God’s love and His grace towards us (forgiveness extended despite ourselves) is exemplified and accomplished by His Son Jesus Christ—who came into this world with the purpose of becoming the only perfect and complete sacrifice (i.e. to pay the price) for our sins.

- “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23
3. There is nothing we can do on our own (i.e. “works”) to overcome our sin and sinful nature.
“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.” Ephesians 2:8-9
 4. Forgiveness for our sins is received by believing in what Jesus Christ did for us on the cross.
Jesus said “He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.” John 3:36
 5. Jesus Christ—the Anointed King—will soon return to reign over His Kingdom.
“Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one Which shall not be destroyed.” Daniel 7:14

For those who want to be free from the bondage of sin, and yearn for right standing with God—the good news is that the blood of Jesus Christ—shed on Calvary—can (1) erase you sin (past, present and future); and (2) He will make you into a new person—from the inside.

Jesus said, “I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.” John 10:10

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” 2 Corinthians 5:17

For those who prefer sin—and do not care about their standing with God—have rejected the greatest gift mankind has ever received.

God’s Confirmation = Reassurance and Terror

“When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them. And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. Then those from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves. And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth.” Revelation 11:7-10

The two witnesses will be killed by the beast once their time is completed. Their dead bodies will be viewed worldwide for 3½ days. Those who follow the beast will celebrate their death by sending gifts to one another.

Think about the following... The prophetic worldwide viewing has not been possible throughout all of history—but is now possible due to recent advancements in technology.

Imagine for a moment what it will be like for Christians when the two witnesses are killed—visible to the world—lying motionless—dead. The two sent by God with truth and power were killed by the very one they stood against: the beast. Take some time to mentally (and emotionally) place yourself in this specific time. Consider the response of each saint as they look upon and mourn the dead bodies of the witnesses.

Experience the intense depth of fear, the questioning of faith, and the feeling of desolation as hope begins to fade...for this is how those who loved Jesus felt when He died on the cross. Consider the absolute hatred of those who are celebrating: the ones who decided to worship the beast and accept his mark; the ones who are blinded by deception. Now that the two witnesses are dead, what's next?

“Now after the three-and-a-half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, ‘Come up here.’ And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them.” Revelation 11:11-12

God breathed the breath of life into them, and they became alive, and they stood on their feet. Then a voice called them from heaven and they ascended while the world watched—which will provide everyone with an audible and visual sign that God reigns—despite the short-lived victory of the beast. All of the saint's fear and questioning of faith will melt away as terror falls upon those who were celebrating their death—for everyone will have confirmation—the prophetic words and testimony spoken by the two witnesses were divinely-inspired and true.

Identity of the Two Witnesses

The Bible does not specifically reveal the identity of the two witnesses. However, the following provides biblical evidence the two witnesses are likely Enoch and Elijah.

Hebrews 9:27 states it is appointed for all persons to die once. Enoch and Elijah are the only two people God took to heaven without dying. Genesis 5:24 says Enoch walked with God and God took him. 2 Kings 2:11 says Elijah was taken into heaven by a whirlwind. Malachi 4:5-6 tells us Elijah will return before the great and dreadful day of the Lord. If the two witnesses are Enoch and Elijah, they will experience their appointed physical death via the beast.

But what is more important than knowing their identity, is to gain appreciation of God's infallible word; understand their appointed purpose; and watch for their appearance.

The Mark

Of all of the last day signs, the mark has generated the most discussion and speculation. Two key scriptures in Revelation provide insight as to the purpose and consequences of the mark.

“He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.” Revelation 13:16-17

“Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, ‘If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their

torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.” Revelation 14:9-11

Simply stated, persons living at this time will be required to accept the beast’s mark in order to buy and sell. Those who accept the mark will experience God’s wrath and an eternal death.

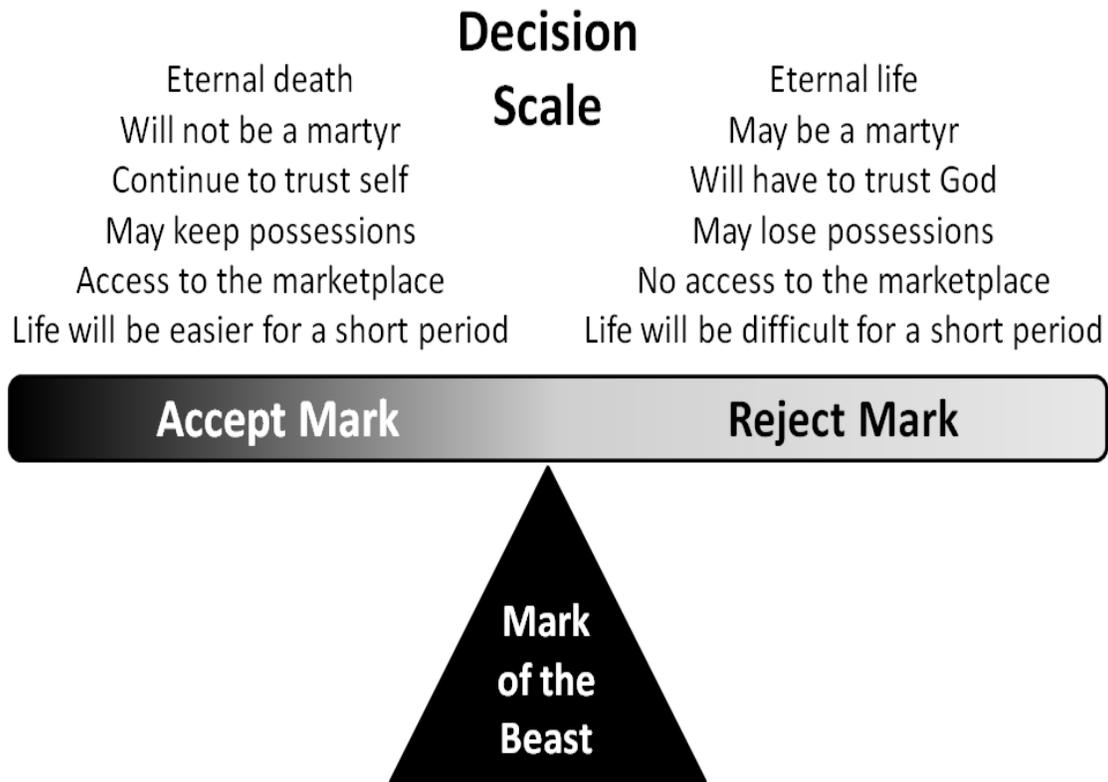
Scripture does not provide additional specific details. Plus, there are a multitude of variables that may occur to support the mark’s implementation—including different means to enforce compliance. Therefore, the objective of the following content is not to make a definitive statement as to how the mark will be implemented and enforced; but rather, the intent is to increase your knowledge, and to facilitate informative watching as events unfold. It is also important to note that much of the following content is based upon prayer, rationalized speculation, and deductive reasoning. The following content will discuss:

- Possible timing of when the mark will be implemented
- Motivation for mark acceptance and rejection
- Visibility of the mark
- Mark verification, non-compliant consequences, and the role of fear
- Technologies that may support implementation
- Reality check

Timing of the Mark

It is not clear when the mark will be required to buy and sell. However, since the mark will be mandated after the second beast (also called the false prophet) attains his authority and power; the mark will likely be required slightly before or slightly after mid-Tribulation. It is important to note it is highly probable the mark will be at the forefront of conversation long before it is mandated. Introductory information regarding the mark, its purpose and “benefits” could be disseminated (by the “entity” that will drive its implementation) as a means to overcome known efforts of Christians (and possibly the two witnesses) who will actively warn the world of the mark and its consequences.

Motivation for Mark Acceptance and Rejection



The mark of the beast is much more than just a mark or an inscription. The mark is the final dividing line. All living persons at this time will be forced to make a decision for Jesus Christ or the beast—a decision that will result in an eternity in Heaven or in the lake of fire. The mark is also the “end of the line” and everyone living at this time will be compelled to make a decision.

When you think about it, the mark is an absolutely diabolical, cruel, evil, and ingenious means to globally attack all of the saints—right where they live—in every corner of the world. In addition, the mark will be a precise means to separate the saved from the non-saved. No longer will someone be able to live a lukewarm Christian life by living on “both sides of the fence” and hiding behind a façade.

A decision to accept the mark means it will be easier to buy and sell in the marketplace. However, the consequences of accepting the mark (in the long term) are far worse than not accepting the mark.

Consider what would occur by not accepting the mark. The “pressures” we experience in our lives today would not compare with the survivalist existence one would be required to live. For example, how would a saved non-marked person obtain food? Instead of shopping at the local supermarket (which will not be allowed) it may require clandestine efforts to obtain sustenance on the black market. Plus, life will be even more difficult when you consider how will one pay for rent, utilities, gasoline, and so forth. As such, it becomes easier to understand why both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, will be compelled to accept the mark of the beast.

Jesus Christ opened the “door of eternal life” via the cross. Satan will open the “door of eternal damnation” via the mark. Every person will be required to make an eternal decision based upon which door they enter:

1. Reject the mark
 - a. Accept Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord
 - b. Do not worship the beast
 - c. Pay a high price in the remaining days
 - d. Spend eternity in Heaven
2. Accept the mark
 - a. Reject Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord
 - b. Follow and worship the beast
 - c. Live under a false hope in the remaining days
 - d. Spend eternity in the lake of fire

Visibility of the Mark

Some believe the mark will consist of an implanted identifier such as a RFID chip placed under the skin. While it is possible different types of technology will support the mark, it is very likely the mark itself—placed on the right hand or forehead—will be visible for mark acceptance validation during a purchase transaction. In addition, each marked person will have a choice of either location.

During World War II the German government mandated to wear identification badges (a yellow star) on the outside of their clothing. Jews who failed to wear the star risked severe punishment. The yellow star served as means to identify and isolate the Jews from the rest of the population. This identification and segmentation began propaganda campaign which labeled the Jews as evil enemies and blamed them as the source of problems Germany. Rights of citizenship were then revoked—followed by removal from jobs and confiscation of property and businesses. Jews were then forced to live in segmented areas which alienated them from the rest of society. These same tactics may be used during the last days.



Jews
yellow
a
via a
within

The yellow star (was) and the mark of the beast (will be) Satan-driven identifiers of persons for death. The Jews were identified for physical death of the body. Those who accept the mark will be identified for an eternal death (body and soul).

The saints who are living during this time will experience intense degrees of fear that are beyond description—and will consume the mind, body, soul, and spirit. As such, it is imperative to remember all earthly-directed fear is in vain. In other words, what to eat, how to find protection from the elements and what may occur by not accepting the mark becomes meaningless when the “physical eyes” are closed and the “spiritual eyes” are opened to God’s Word and God’s promises.

Remember...All that is occurring is fulfillment of prophecy.

Remember...The Lord reigns and is still on His throne.

Remember...The Lord is in control.

Remember...The beast and those who accept the mark will live for eternity in the lake of fire.

Remember...Those who trust in God will live for eternity in Heaven.

Remember...Our time on this earth compares to a grain of sand in an ocean of eternity.

Remember...God’s Word and His promises are infallible.

Remember...Nothing on this earth is worthy.

Remember...Do not accept the mark and do not worship the beast.

Remember...To fear God and not man nor the beast.

Mark Verification, Non-Compliant Consequences, and the Role of Fear

If no one will have the ability to buy or sell unless they have the mark means the following will likely occur:

1. There will be a means to verify if the buyer and seller have the beast's mark when a sale/transaction occurs. Mark verification may be accomplished by one or both of the following:
 - Permanent Visual Mark: The marked seller must visually verify the buyer has a similar mark on the forehead or hand
 - Technology (process similar to a credit card approval). Technology may include:
 - Smart cards (personal information embedded in chip on credit card)
 - Biometric identification
 - Fingerprint
 - Facial recognition
 - RFID chip (personal information implanted under the skin)
2. There will be consequences if you attempt to buy and sell without the mark (non-compliance). Without consequences no one would be compelled to accept the mark. Consequences for non-compliance may include:
 - Confiscation of items sold/purchased
 - Confiscation of assets
 - Imprisonment
 - Death
3. Compliance will likely be reinforced by fear. This may be easily accomplished by globally distributing videos depicting people being severely punished—and even killed (some beheaded)—for the following reasons:
 - Non-compliance
 - A marked person attempted to assist a non-marked person
 - A marked person knew of non-compliance but did not report it to authorities

Those who have accepted the mark may also assist in mark verification and compliance; and can serve as channels of hatred directed towards the saints. Imagine marked persons standing in a grocery line that includes a non-marked person attempting to buy food. Those marked persons standing in line will be able to visually determine if this person has the mark or not by looking at their forehead or right hand. “What are you doing here? You do not have the mark and are not able to buy. You want to get us all in trouble? GET OUT OF HERE...YOU “%#*\$#!!!”

Fear motivated the Jews to accept the yellow star. Fear will motivate persons to accept the mark. Fear is a means of control used by Satan throughout time. Fear weaves the links of a chain that binds us to sin—and blinds us to the Truth. However, those who fear God—who can destroy both body and soul—will understand the eternal price and will not accept the mark.

Jesus said, “**And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.**” Matthew 10:28

Technologies that may Support Mark Implementation

Cashless Global Economy

If physical money (cash, US dollar, Euro, etc.) is used as a means to exchange value for goods and services—it will be more difficult to enforce mark compliance because people will exchange money on a “black” (clandestine) market. As such, the beast’s ability to control buying and selling will be proportionately increased as physical forms of payment (cash, US dollar, Euro, etc.) are eliminated—and only digital (electronic) payments are allowed. However, a cashless economy requires the following:

- All physical forms of money are declared worthless and no longer accepted as legal tender by all financial institutions
- A secure means of personal identification is deployed that is difficult (if not impossible) to forge/duplicate
- All approvals for buying and selling—including the transfer of monetary value—will occur electronically over communication networks (i.e. Internet and Intranets)

One of the key challenges in developing a cashless global economy is deployment of technology and infrastructure in 3rd world countries. However there has been significant growth of a cashless cell phone-based banking service in Africa called M-Pesa—which stands for mobile money (pesa is Swahili for money). M-Pesa allows cell phone users to digitally deposit, withdraw and transfer money; plus, it supports digital payment for goods and services. The service started in Kenya and Tanzania; and has recently expanded into Afghanistan, South Africa, India, and into Eastern Europe. M-Pesa is now supporting millions of users and has achieved a continued (and significant) year-over-year growth.

This technology provides multiple financial benefits for users and financial institutions. As such, there will likely be additional investments to expand infrastructure to reach and support an increased customer base in 3rd world countries and remote parts of the world.

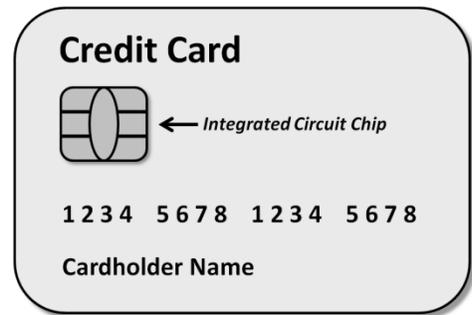
Sources: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/M-Pesa>

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/danielrunde/2015/08/12/m-pesa-and-the-rise-of-the-global-mobile-money-market/>

Smart Cards

Because millions upon millions of dollars are lost each year due to fraud, financial institutions are continually seeking identification technologies that cannot be forged or stolen.

Deployed globally for more than ten years (except in the United States), smart cards provide enhanced security of a transaction (compared to a card with a magnetic strip only). A smart card is a credit card with an integrated circuit chip (ICC). The ICC can store a significant amount of information (including personal information such as medical records and biometric data); and can support user identification, authentication, and application processing.



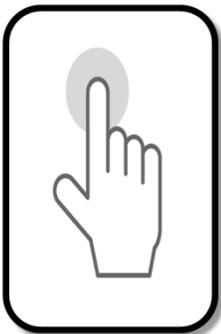
On October 1, 2015, retailers in the US were required to accept smart cards; and US customers were sent smart cards to replace their magnetic stripe only cards.

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Smart_card

Biometric Identification

Accurate physical identification of the buyer can facilitate mark compliance and control. However, all physical forms of identification are subject to fraud and theft.

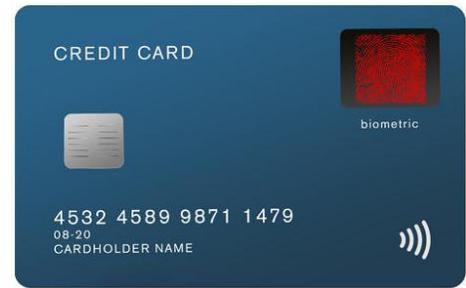
To reduce fraud and theft, retailers, banks, and credit card companies have been testing biometric devices. Biometric devices are used to verify a person's identity by analyzing personal traits such as finger prints, iris scanners, and facial recognition—which are very difficult to duplicate, forge or steal.



Challenges associated with implementing biometric technology at the point-of-purchase include cost and ease-of-use. Some biometric technologies such as voice pattern analyzers and retinal scanners are expensive and require trained specialists. However, fingerprint recognition is easy to implement and use, and is highly effective and inexpensive. Fingerprint readers are now included (or offered as an option) on laptop computers, computer keyboards and cell phones—which replaces the need to enter a user name and password during sign on. “Digital thumbprints” may also be stored on a smart card or in a central database.

Smart Cards with Biometric Identification

Mastercard recently announced a credit card with an imbedded fingerprint reader. No modification to existing infrastructure is required. The cardholder simply places their thumb on the fingerprint reader when it is inserted or tapped.



Source: <https://www.mastercard.us/en-us/merchants/safety-security/biometric-card.html>

Iris Recognition



Iris recognition biometrics uses sophisticated digital camera technology to acquire images of the detailed unique structures of the iris.



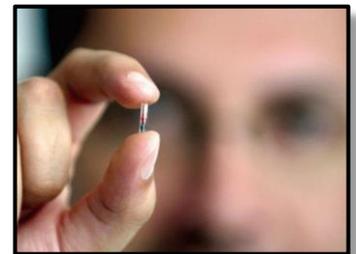
Hundreds of millions of persons in countries around the world have been enrolled in iris recognition systems, such as passport-free automated border-crossings. A key advantage of iris recognition, besides its speed of matching and its extreme resistance to false matches, is the stability of the iris as an internal, protected, yet externally visible organ of the eye.



Facial recognition technology has greatly improved during the past few years due to advancements in high-definition cameras and software. Facial recognition has been deployed in multiple environments, and is relatively inexpensive and easy to use.

RFID

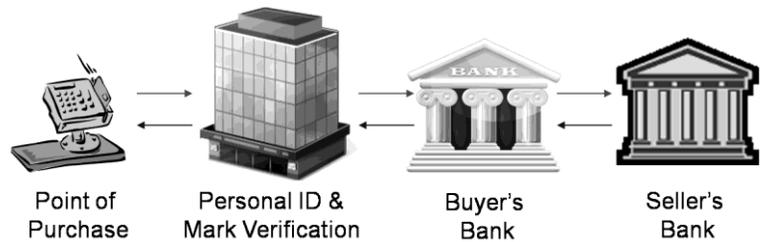
Another form of identification that may be used is based upon a very small RFID (radio-frequency identification) microchip that is implanted under the skin. This type of technology is widely used today for a variety of purposes— from identifying animals to tracking merchandise. The microchip has the ability to store information about the “implantee.” Contents of the RFID microchip are read by a RFID reader when it is placed close to the microchip. RFID readers are relatively inexpensive and easy to use.



Network Verification of Mark Acceptance

The following scenario is virtually identical to what occurs today when you pay with a credit or debit card. The only added step in the process is mark verification.

Personal identification data is “packaged” with the relevant purchase information (at the point of purchase) and digitally transferred for verification to a database via the Internet or some other communication medium. If the mark has been accepted by the buyer and seller, the transaction amount



is then transferred to the buyer’s bank to verify if there are sufficient funds (debit purchase) and/or the account is in good standing (credit purchase). If the account is in good standing the financial transfer to the seller’s bank is completed and notification is returned to the point of purchase terminal. If the mark has not been accepted by either the buyer or seller the transaction will not be approved and a rejection notification occurs. Similar to credit/debit card transactions, all of the aforementioned will occur within seconds.

Detailed Purchase Information



Today, Universal Product Code (UPC) numbers are on virtually every product. It is now possible to identify if a family of four is consuming “excess” food (i.e. for five or six persons) which can raise a “red flag” that warrants further investigation to determine if the family is providing food to someone who has not accepted the mark. The simple

threat of this capability—including the severe consequences—could significantly deter sympathetic caregivers.

The Number 666

“Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666.” Revelation 13:18

The number 666 has intrigued many throughout the centuries. As such, there have been numerous attempts to decipher the number of the beast. For example, some have attempted to use a mathematical approach by assigning numeric values to the alphabet; others have taken the English alphabet and assigned numeric values by adding 1 x 6 to the letter A, 2 x 6 to the letter B, 3 x 6 to the letter C, and so forth. These various methodologies have equated a 666 to the names of Nero, Hitler, the Pope, Henry Kissinger, and other persons.

Efforts thus far have been inaccurate. However, it seems logical the “wisdom” required to calculate the number of the beast will likely be given by the Holy Spirit as the last day events approach. This insightful calculation—combined with fulfilled prophecy—should provide an additional validation of the beast’s identity.

Reality Check

Sometimes it is helpful to stop, take a deep breath and take a long walk (away from the trees) so that you can see the forest from a distance. With regards to the mark, thus far we have discussed one absolute we're certain will occur: the mark will be required to buy/sell; it will be located on the right hand or forehead; and God's wrath will be poured out upon all who worship the beast and accept his mark (Revelation 13:16-17, 14:9-11). All other variables—including how the mark will be implemented—is not defined in the Bible and is unknown. Therefore, what has been discussed thus far (and below) is based upon prayer, analysis of ongoing changes within our global neighborhood, speculation, and deductive reasoning.

It's important to note the technologies previously mentioned (smart cards, biometrics, RFID, and so forth) cannot be visually verified; requires technology at the point of purchase to "read" the buyer's identification information; and will involve significant logistical difficulties to deploy and support globally—especially in remote areas where technological infrastructure does not exist. And yes, it is also possible for a combination of technologies to be deployed in various parts of the world based upon existing infrastructure.

However, if the mark is mandated at or near the midpoint of the Tribulation, it will take time (possibly years) to globally deploy a technology-based mark and verification system. In addition, once the beast breaks the covenant and stands in the temple proclaiming to be god is when the wrath of God will begin to be poured out—which will cause devastation to existing infrastructures—thereby making it more difficult to deploy and support.

Here are some additional speculative thoughts to consider regarding the mark:

1. Satan's desire (past and future) is to drive a "wedge of hatred" between those whom he owns and those who are purchased by the blood of the Lamb. If technology is solely responsible for compliance (and a visible mark is not used) then it removes much of the burden of compliance responsibility from marked persons. However, if a visible mark is deployed, a marked person could be punished for knowing (or should have known) and did not report a compliance violation. This scenario provides a highly effective means to:
 - a. Compel all marked persons (via fear of the consequences) to look for non-compliant buying and selling by non-marked persons.
 - b. Inflare hatred between the non-saved and the saved.
2. The mark will be easier to deploy and verify if it is comprised of an indelible image/logo/inscription (such as a tattoo) that is applied to the right hand or forehead. A small disposable hand-held device with preinstalled needles that form the "mark" may be tattooed quickly on each person and would be much easier to deploy during the last days. The tattooed mark—combined with fear-related videos depicting severe consequences of non-compliance—will facilitate compliance.
 - a. Marks made on the top layer of skin (the epidermis) are not permanent. Permanent markers will wash off or will soon disappear (in less than a month) due to our skin's epidermis regeneration process.
 - b. Permanent marks occur when ink is inserted (via a needle) through the epidermis layer and into the underlying dermis layer.

- c. Once considered appropriate for “renegades and rebels,” tattoos are now socially acceptable across all segments and classes of society.
 - d. If the beast’s mark is comprised of a tattoo, it will (and not surprisingly) directly conflict with God’s mandate given to the Jews. “You shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead, nor tattoo any marks on you: I am the Lord.” [Leviticus 19:28](#)
3. Given our basic nature, why would anyone be willing to accept the mark in the first place? The mark represents a significant cost to personal privacy and freedom. While it is easy to assume that there will be a percentage of the global neighborhood that would be willing to follow anyone who performs deceptive signs and miracles—but what about the remaining masses? Is it possible there will be additional mitigating factors that will facilitate mark acceptance? For example, a deep and prolonged global economic crisis will likely cause everyone to experience a deep level of fear that can be best described as all-encompassing, mind-numbing, and gut-wrenching. If this occurs, many will go hungry—some for the first time in their lives. Fear and hunger are fundamental motivators that have much more influence upon one’s behavior than the “concepts” of privacy and freedom. If the mark is presented as a means (i.e. part of a “recovery plan”) to get the world’s economy going again, improving employment opportunities, and will put food on the table—then any concerns with privacy and freedom will be overshadowed by the demands of fulfilling more basic needs. What’s more, this scenario supports disenfranchisement of (and expression of anger towards) anyone who does not participate in an “economic recovery plan.”
4. For some the mark may be a statement and even a proclamation that they have placed their trust and faith in the beast—which provides some explanation as to why someone would want the mark placed on their forehead. If there is a choice, placement on the right hand will be more convenient and less obtrusive; whereas, placement on the forehead will possibly convey (and may publicly announce) the recipient’s allegiance to the beast and hatred towards those who do not accept the mark.

Possible Ways the Beast May Obtain Global Power and Control

The Bible states the beast will receive his power from Satan. However, it does not clearly state who the specific person of the beast is, nor does it state how he will achieve global power and control. This “unknown” has (and is) causing many to watch and wonder.

As such, it is important to understand the following content in this section is based upon prayer, scripture, rationalized speculation, and deductive reasoning. My objective is to provide you with possible scenarios and events that may occur in the future so that you can watch with understanding. For example, a key indicator of the beast’s identity is he will likely be involved in forging the agreement for the Nation of Israel to resume sacrifices and offerings. However, there is a possibility that he will not be revealed (during this time) and “behind the scenes amongst the powerful” as he manipulates the negotiation of the covenant. However, there will be no doubt as to his identity when he stands in the Temple proclaiming to be God.

Changes that may provide the beast with a means to enter onto the global stage include (and are not limited to) the following:

- Continually worsening global conditions
- Ineffectual leadership and frustrated populace
- Rise of a charismatic leader (the beast) with a “plan” to fix things
- Successful implementation of the beast’s plan

Global conditions could possibly worsen to a point where existing political and power structures will weaken or fail. The reason is existing political entities (and enemies) are not willing to give up their power unless forced to do so—by either military strength and/or a populace that is “fed up” with their present living conditions and ineffectual leadership. These declining conditions may be facilitated by:

- Wars and rumors of wars
- Earthquakes, famines, and pestilences
- Darkened transformation of social norms
- Utilizing advancements in technology
- Systemic global economic depression
- Weakening of political strongholds

We have discussed wars and rumors of wars; earthquakes, famines, and pestilences—which are last day indicators. We also discussed the continual decline of darkened social norms. Plus we reviewed the various technologies that may support the implementation of the mark. However, for the beast to obtain global power...additional changes must occur within our global society that would cause the leaders of nations to relinquish power and control. As such, we will now discuss the very fragile nature of present global economic condition; and how weakening of existing political and power structures may possibly occur.

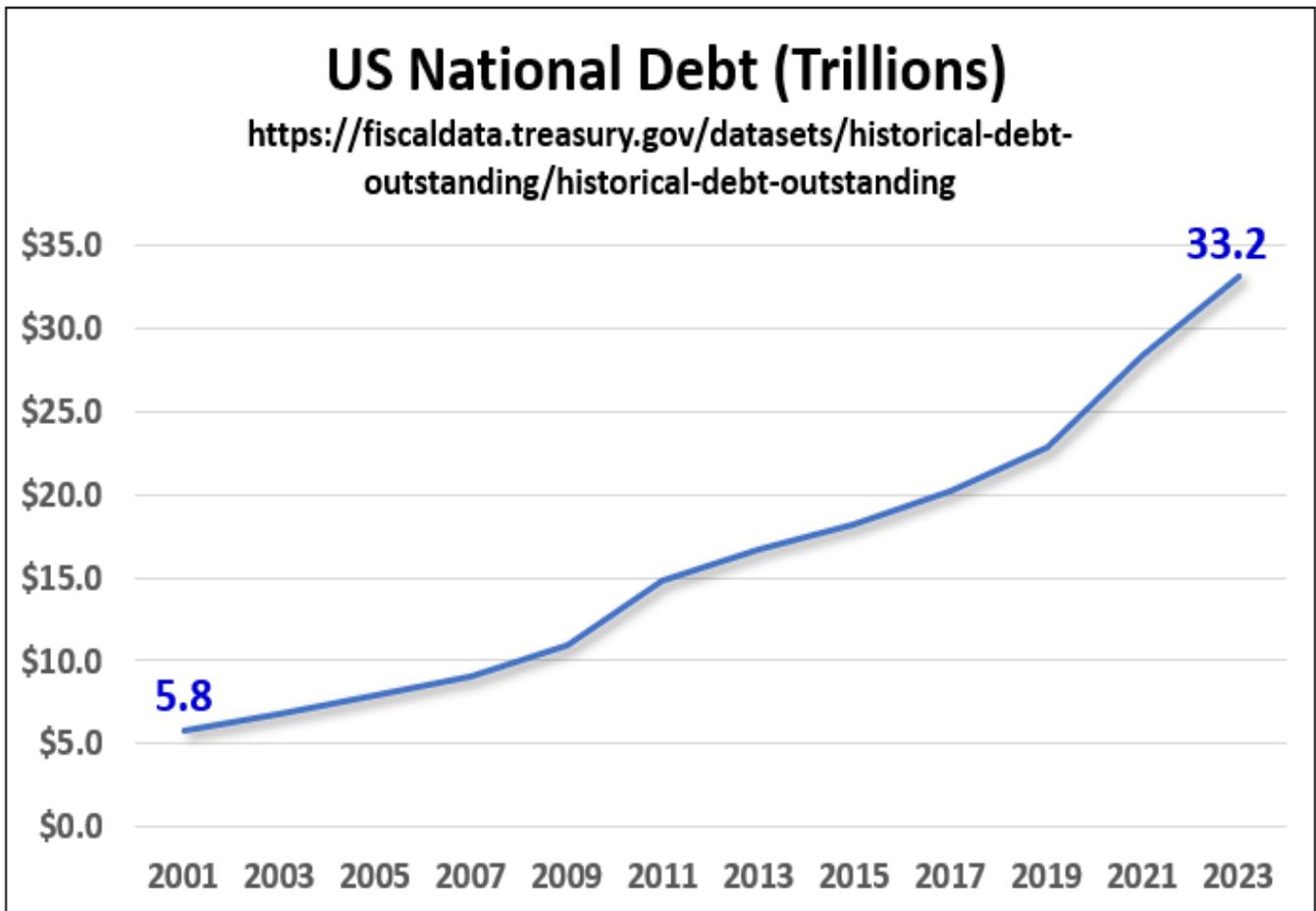
Fragile Global Economy

Global Debt

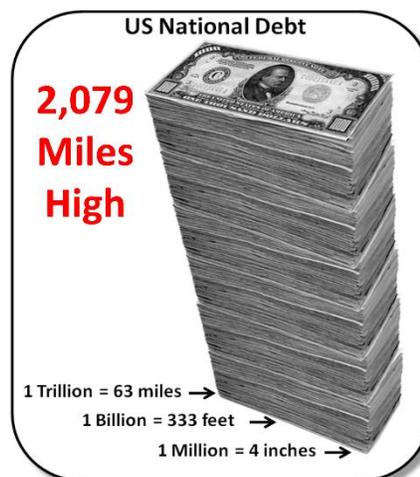
Debt may be compared to a cancer that begins on a “cellular level” – but will ravage, overcome, and eventually kill the “host” if not kept under complete control. God is aware of man’s nature and of the consequences of debt. For example, He made provision for the Israelites in Deuteronomy 15:1-2: "At the end of every seven-year period you shall have a relaxation of debts, which shall be observed as follows. Every creditor shall relax his claim on what he has loaned his neighbor; he must not press his neighbor, his kinsman, because a relaxation in honor of the LORD has been proclaimed."

US National Debt

The US national debt has increased from \$5.8 trillion in 2001 to more than 33 trillion in 2020. This rapid increase in our national debt is expected to grow along the same path—which is unsustainable.



The magnitude of our debt crisis becomes clearer when you can visualize its size. If you take a million dollars in tightly wrapped \$1,000 bills and place them on top of one another, they would create a stack 4 inches high. A billion dollars is 333 feet high. A trillion dollars is 63 miles high. 33 trillion dollars is 2,079 miles high.



But what's really important, 33 trillion equates to a financial responsibility of just over \$98,000 for every man, woman, and child in America. Total debt (33 trillion) / Total US population (335,627,799).

The above information was updated on 10/25/23.
Population source : www.census.gov/popest

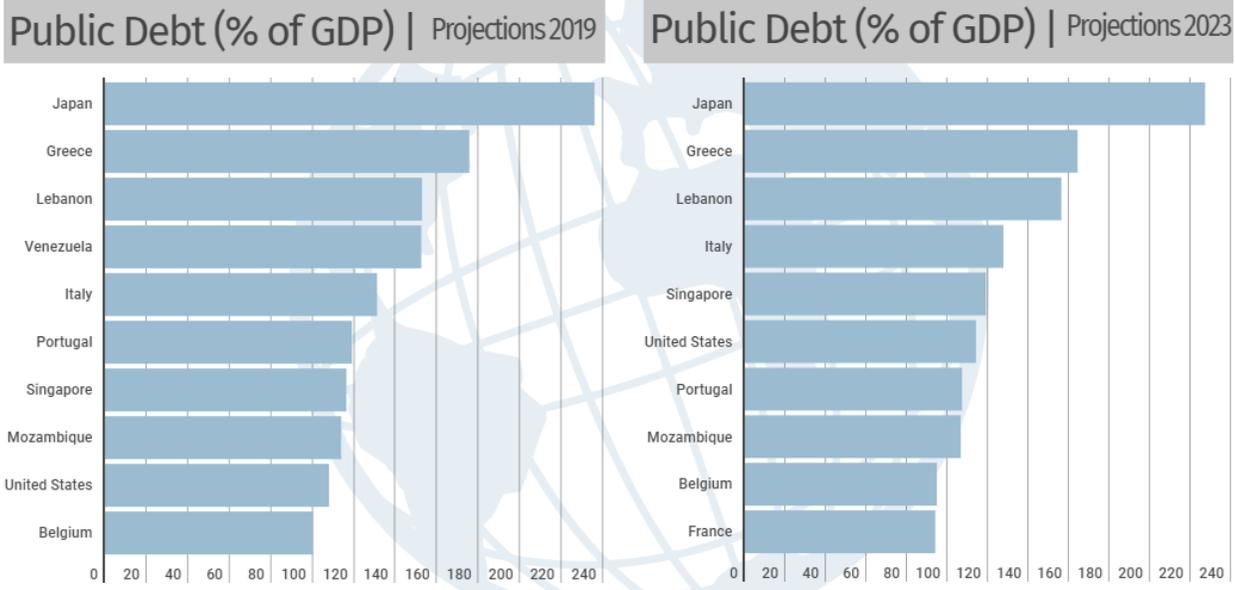
Debt to Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

Another key measure of a country's economic instability is the comparison of debt as a percentage of GDP (Gross Domestic Product). GDP is the total market value of all goods and services produced within a country in a given period. GDP may be compared to your total annual income. If your total annual income is \$40,000 per year and your debt consists of a credit card with a \$10,000 balance—your debt to GDP percentage is 25% (\$10,000/\$40,000). It is important to note your total annual income of \$40,000 must be used to pay for day-to-day expenses such as food, clothing, shelter, insurance, gasoline, etc.; and what's left (if any) is used to pay the credit card debt.

Now consider what your situation would be like if your debt to income ratio was equal to 75%. Given the prior scenario, with an annual income of \$40,000 your debt would equate to \$30,000. How would you expect to pay this debt when you are still required to meet all other financial obligations (rent, utilities, food, etc.)? Meanwhile the debt continues to increase over time because of interest (i.e. \$30,000 in debt equates to \$300 annual interest @ 1% non-compounded). You may continue to borrow additional amounts each month to make up the difference (i.e. what the US government has been doing)—but over an extended period time you will eventually be unable to meet your financial obligations—and will become bankrupt.

The extremely high debt to GDP percentage is occurring in other nations. Some are struggling just to make payments on the interest portion of their debts.

Top 10 Countries With Highest Public Debt Levels



Sources: <https://www.focus-economics.com/blog/countries-with-the-most-public-debt>
<https://research.stlouisfed.org/fred2/series/GFDEGDQ1885>

Economic Interdependence

Consider the changes capitalism has had in the global marketplace. Those who can remember the “cold war” would have never imagined McDonald's restaurants in Russia (the first one opened January 1990), and the amount of trade America now has with China. We have witnessed autonomous economic “islands” become codependent for survival.

Countries are continuing to increase their financial deficit (via additional borrowing) to subsidize and stimulate their economies. Given the high debt to GDP ratios; inability of countries to reduce their debt; and the dependence upon government spending to stimulate their economies; global debt will continue to increase, or will be reduced by hyperinflation and/or systemic financial collapse. When one country fails, it increases the probability others will follow.



A Global Leader is Needed

If global conditions worsen to a point where existing political and power structures weaken or fail, the masses will seek anyone who can stop the downward spiral, and bring peace and prosperity to their land, and to their lives.

The beast may gain power if he is perceived by nations and kingdoms as one who has a vision and plan of how to “turn the course” of worsening problems. As his “solutions” are implemented, conditions will improve and life on earth will return to some degree of “normalcy.” Rationale for “improvements in life” are as follows:

- If things do not improve the masses will reject him and consider him similar to the ineffective leaders they presently have. If life is improved some will likely view the beast as a “savior”—one who saved the world from catastrophe—thereby increasing his influence, power and control.
- 1 Thessalonians 5:3 reveals that when they say, “peace and safety” is when the beast will reveal his true identity—and when God’s wrath will begin to be poured out.

“For when they say, ‘Peace and safety!’ then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.” 1 Thessalonians 5:3

Jesus also provided us with insight as to the conditions prior to His return. In the scripture below eating, drinking, marrying, giving in marriage, buying, selling, planting, and building all convey “normal” living conditions.

Jesus declared, “And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all.” Luke 17:26-29; Matthew 24:37-39

There is an interesting part of Daniel 8:25 (“and by peace shall destroy many”) which helps reinforce the notion peace may prevail prior to the breaking of the covenant and the beginning of the Great Tribulation. If the beast can stop or slow down a global downward spiral; if the masses perceive the world is returning to some form of “normalcy”—this may cause many to discount/dispel all the warnings regarding the beast—for this is our sinful nature. For example, many will turn to God when they are in the trenches of battle; when bullets are flying overhead; and when immersed in the fear of dying. However, when peace returns many will turn away from God and return to their “old self.”

Remember...when the beast stands in the Temple—proclaiming to be God—is when Jesus warns those in Judea to flee. “For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.” Matthew 24:21; Mark 13:19

The Broken Covenant

“But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate.” Daniel 9:27

The only place Satan would consider appropriate to stand before the world and declare he is God...is the Temple. The Temple Mount (where the Temple once stood) is the most important location on earth. This is where God revealed Himself and made His presence manifest. Plus, the Temple is where sin could be atoned for through the sacrifice of animals—which will comprise the core motivation (i.e. a “carrot”) used by the beast to have the Temple rebuilt. Although the rebuilding of the Temple will be deceptively positioned as a benefit for the Jews—it will be for Satan—which will become evident 3 ½ years after rebuilding begins (which is a sufficient time to rebuild the Temple). This is when the beast will break his covenant; will cease sacrifice and offerings; will desecrate and desolate the Temple; and declare he is God.

I Am God

“Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor.” Ezekiel 28:17

Satan’s vain pride and corrupted wisdom has caused him to live in total darkness—unable to comprehend truth and unable to cease his ungoverned impulses to be worshipped like God.

“How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’” Isaiah 14:12-14

When the covenant is broken is when the beast’s true intentions will be manifest. Satan will seek to fulfill his heart’s dark, desolate and vain desire: to be worshiped like God (which caused him and 1/3 of the angels to be cast out of Heaven in the first place). He will desecrate (damage, defile) the temple; and will stand in the holy place proclaiming to the world he is exalted above God. His hatred will spew from his mouth as he speaks blasphemy (disrespect, profanity, slander) towards God and Heaven, and will wage war against God’s holy people.

“Who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.” 2 Thessalonians 2:4

“And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.” Revelation 13:5-7

This is the beginning of the last 3 ½ years; and when God begins to pour out His wrath upon Earth. Jesus describes this period of time as “great tribulation.” There will be pain, and suffering, and hardship, and death unlike any period of time in the past, nor in the future. Jesus declared, “Therefore, when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand), “then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days!

And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be." Matthew 24:15-21



Silence in Heaven

"When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets. Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand. Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth. And there were noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake. So, the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound." Revelation 8:1-6

The seventh seal first describes silence in heaven for about a half hour. There is no specific description of what occurs during the silence. However, Psalm 46:10 may possibly define God's intent: "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." It is also possible the silence is due to God's sadness in what is about to occur. The seals were a "prelude" of devastation. The seven trumpets and bowls will result in annihilation

The Seven Trumpets

- Trumpet 1: 1/3 of earth, trees and all grass burned
- Trumpet 2: 1/3 of the ocean, sea life and ships destroyed
- Trumpet 3: 1/3 of all fresh water to be destroyed.
- Trumpet 4: 1/3 of the sun, moon, and stars to no longer shine
- Trumpet 5: Agony and misery for all who accept the mark
- Trumpet 6: Death of 1/3 mankind
- Trumpet 7: God takes control

The Seven Bowls

Bowl 1: Causes festering sores on all who accepted the mark

Bowl 2: Changes the ocean into blood

Bowl 3: Changes all drinkable water into blood

Bowl 4: Causes people to be seared by the sun

Bowl 5: Judgment is poured out on the throne of the beast

Bowl 6: The Euphrates River is dried up

Bowl 7: Armageddon

Jewish Remnant

A number of Jews will be protected during the final 3 ½ years of the Tribulation. These are they who will flee into the mountains (Matthew 24:15-21). These protected Jews will enter into the Millennial Kingdom reign of Jesus Christ—which will signify the end of the Tribulation (after the final battle of Armageddon), and will begin the instant His foot touches the Mount of Olives. (Zechariah 14)

“But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent. So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood. But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.” Revelation 12:14-17

Armageddon – the Final Battle, the End of the Tribulation

“And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.” Revelation 16:16

Jesus Christ was born into this world in a manner that was unexpected by the nation of Israel more than 2,000 years ago. They believed the Messiah (the Anointed King) would come as a warrior to redeem and free the Jews from the oppression of their enemies. But He came as a meek and lowly lamb with a much higher and eternal purpose—to give up His life as a sacrifice for our sins—as an expression of God’s love to all who believe. When He returns, He will come as the promised warrior with absolute power—the King of kings and Lord of lords will lead the armies of heaven into battle and will destroy the oppressors by His spoken word—including the beast, the false prophet, and those that worshiped the beast and accepted his mark.

“Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.”

“Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, ‘Come and gather together for the supper of the great God, that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, both small and great.’ And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.” Revelation 19:11-21

In the beginning, God’s spoken word created the heavens and the universe (Genesis 1). In the end, Jesus Christ will defeat and capture the beast and the false prophet, and will kill the earthly kings, and their armies by the power and majesty of His spoken word: coming out of His mouth as a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. The beast (the abomination that causes desolation) will be thrown (along with the false prophet) into the fiery lake of burning sulfur – which is the second death (Revelation 21:8) and where they will be tormented day and night for ever and ever (Revelation 20:10).

The final battle will culminate the end of the seven-year Tribulation. It will also usher in the transition to the fulfillment of prophesy for all that held onto the Truth, and all that survive the Tribulation: the thousand-year millennial kingdom of Jesus Christ.

Post Tribulation

The Millennial Reign of Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Mashiach, and the Anointed One) first came as a Lamb for the atonement for our sins. However, the Israelites believed the Messiah would come as a warrior: one who would destroy their enemies on earth. But Jesus did something much greater. He willingly gave His body as a sacrifice for our sins; and shed His blood...so that Jews and gentiles can receive forgiveness for our sins, so that we can overcome our sinful nature, so that we can overcome our spiritual enemies.

However, when Jesus Christ returns, He will come as the Israelites first believed: as the Lion of Judah to destroy Israel's enemies. Jesus is the only One worthy and able—and will bring together all things under Himself during His Millennium (1,000-year reign)—which begins after the Battle of Armageddon.

God remembers His covenant forever: "To give the land of Canaan as the portion you will inherit." (Modern-day Canaan includes Israel, Lebanon, Palestinian territories, the western part of Jordan and southwestern Syria.)	Genesis 17:8; Psalm 105:8-11
God will destroy Israel's enemies, will restore the remnant of Israel, and will dwell among them.	Zephaniah 3:8-20; Zechariah 8:1-23, 10:6-9; Ezekiel 36:10-11 & 22-28, 37:22-28, 39:25-29; Jeremiah 23:5-6, 32:36-44; Amos 9:11-15; Isaiah 60, 61, 62 & 65: 17-25
The wicked will no longer oppress the Jewish people, they will have a home of their own, and they will never fear harm again.	1 Chronicles 17:9; 2 Samuel 7:10; Zephaniah 3:15
Jesus will reign on David's throne.	Jeremiah. 23:5-6; Isaiah 9:6-7; Luke 1:32-33
Jesus will rule with a rod of iron.	Psalm 2:9; Revelation 2:26-27, 12:5, 19:15
Jesus will execute justice and righteousness over the twelve tribes of Israel.	Jeremiah 23:5-6; Matthew 19:28 Daniel 7:13-14, 27; Isaiah 9:6-7 Isaiah 24:23; Zechariah 14:9; Micah 4:3
Jesus will judge the nations and settle disputes.	Isaiah 2:4
Jesus will provide before requested.	Isaiah 65:24

Jesus Christ will employ a hierarchical structure of power and control. Ruling under Jesus will be the twelve Disciples, martyrs, and saints.

The twelve disciples will judge the twelve tribes of Israel.	Isaiah 24:23; Matthew 19:28 Luke 22:29-30
Those who had been beheaded because of their faith and testimony about Jesus will come to life and reign with Jesus Christ for the thousand years.	Revelation 20:4
Saints will also have a position of authority and will rule with Jesus Christ.	Daniel 7:27; Luke 19:17-19; Rev 3:21; Rev 5:10

Global peace will occur

War and instruments of war (and associated fear) will no longer exist.	Zechariah 9:10 Isaiah 2:4; 9:7; Micah 4:3-4
Carnivorous animals will no longer hunt for meat. Animals will no longer hunt, hurt, nor destroy, and will eat vegetation.	Isaiah 65:25; Isaiah 11:6-9

Worship

Persons will be required to go to Jerusalem celebrate and participate in the Festival of Tabernacles. (The Feast of Tabernacles is a week-long fall festival commemorating the 40-year journey of the Israelites in the wilderness in which Hebrews were commanded to make a pilgrimage to the Temple in Jerusalem. After the destruction of the Second Temple and until the building of the third temple, the actual pilgrimage is no longer obligatory upon Jews, and no longer takes place on a national scale.)	Zechariah 14:16
If persons do not comply, they will be punished by no rain. This also means persons living at this time can make choices and will understand consequences. This also reflects ruling “with a rod of iron” to overcome a sinful nature that continues to exist. However, rain will be less important or possibly not required for Jerusalem because of the living waters continually flowing out from the city: half towards the eastern sea and half towards the western sea.	Zechariah 14:17-19 Zechariah 14:4, 8; Isaiah 44:3
People will recognize and understand all earthly possessions are from God (His provided provisions) and are holy unto God.	Zechariah 14:20-21
People will travel to Jerusalem to learn of God’s ways and to walk in His paths.	Isaiah 2:3

Daily life

People will raise families, build their own homes, plant their own food, and enjoy the work of their hands. People will not create work for other's use / consumption, and their labor will be fruitful.	Isaiah 65:21-23
Life expectancy will greatly increase. A person who dies at 100 years of age will be considered a youth.	Isaiah 65:20

Satan

Will have no power or influence during the Millennium.	Revelation 20:1-5
When the thousand years has expired, for a short period of time Satan will be allowed to deceive the nations for a short period to gather together them together to battle. Those who join Satan will (1) be destroyed by God, and (2) thrown into the lake of fire.	Revelation 20:7-10

The Demise of the Unholy Trinity

Upon the conclusion of the Tribulation (after the Battle of Armageddon—when the beast, the false prophet and all enemies of Jesus Christ are destroyed). The beast and the false prophet will be thrown into the lake of fire for eternity (with those who received the mark and worshiped the beast). Satan will be thrown into the bottomless pit for 1,000 years and then released for a short time.

“Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.” Revelation 19:20

“Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.” Revelation 20:1-3

A Very Important Question

“Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.” I Corinthians 15:51-52

Although the term "rapture" is not in the Bible, it is commonly used to describe the event when the saints will be caught up in the heavens with Jesus. There are three basic beliefs as to when the rapture will occur: before, during, or at the end of the Tribulation. There is convincing Biblical evidence to support each belief. Different beliefs exist because the scripture does not state a specific date and/or time that the rapture will occur. In addition, it does not specify an event that will precede the rapture. This is all intentional and God's design.

Jesus declared, **“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.”** Mark 13:32; Matthew 24:36

Therefore, anyone who provides a “date” is a fraud. Countless numbers of persons have been led astray and many have perished because of a “spiritual leader” who “discovered” or received a “divine revelation” of a date when Jesus Christ would return.

The reason God is the only One who knows the time...is because God knows the heart of man. This is why the timing of the rapture is not clearly defined in the Bible; and why there are different beliefs as to when it will occur (pre-tribulation, mid-tribulation, post-tribulation).

“For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.” I Thessalonians 4:15-18

Imagine for a moment (and be absolutely “truthful” to yourself) in answering the following question: What you would do differently in your life if you knew the rapture would occur:

- Tomorrow.
 - What would you do in the few hours that remain?
 - Would you “drop everything” and accept Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord?
- Next year.
 - What would seek to change and/or accomplish during the months that remain?
 - Is it possible you would become more focused upon God as the months progressed and as the “time” became closer—culminating during the last few days or hours when you finally accept God's forgiveness?
- 10 years from now.

Your personal reflection and response to each of the above scenarios provide an explanation as to why God does not provide specific dates and only signs. By not knowing when, Jesus declared must continually watch and be ready.

“Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.” Matthew 24:42-44

“Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing. Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods. But if that evil servant says in his heart, ‘My master is delaying his coming,’ and begins to beat his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards, the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him and at an hour that he is not aware of.” Matthew 24:45-50

It is therefore prudent to know the signs and watch; prepare for the worst; pray for the best; and continually align our hearts with the One who will come in the twinkling of an eye.



The Most Important Sign!



God has given us another sign—the most important sign of all—a sign of His love; a sign of His forgiveness; and a sign of His complete, eternal, and unmerited grace extended to us by His Son, Jesus Christ.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” John 3:16

Jesus Christ took the punishment for our sins when He died on the cross 2,000 years ago.

If you do not know Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord...why wait? Any reason that would cause you to delay...is a deceptive lie.

Now is the time to make a decision by simply pray the following:

Heavenly Father I thank you for sending Your Son into the world, and for crucifying Him for my sins. Forgive me God for who I am and for what I have done. Jesus, take control of my life and change me into the type of person you want me to be.

“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” 2 Corinthians 5:21

“The righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.” Romans 3:22-24

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” Eph. 2:8-10

“And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.

I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.”

Revelation 22:12-13

If you accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord (or know of someone who needs Jesus Christ in their life) I highly recommend reading:

- “3 Types of Death, 1 Source of Life”
- “What is a Born-Again Christian?”
- “Foundation”

In addition, if you’d like to learn more about the last days, I recommend reading “Revelation’s Blessings” (a word-by-word, verse-by-verse study of the Book of Revelation).

The above lessons may be read and are downloadable for free on UniqueBibleStudies.com.

Your comments, questions and prayer requests are warmly appreciated. I am greatly blessed each time I hear from a reader. Be assured, I will not respond unless asked to do so.

My e-mail address is: UniqueBibleStudies@Outlook.com

It is my prayer your path is illuminated by God’s Word; your fear is overcome with the peace of His promises; and your life eternal with Jesus Christ.

All for His Glory—For He Alone Is Worthy!

Harold D. Thomas

See the next page for a summary list of the 21 last day signs.

Summary List of 21 Biblically-Based Last Day Signs

Last Day Signs:

1. Deception
2. Wars and rumors of wars
3. Famine
4. Nation vs. nation, kingdoms vs. kingdoms
5. Pestilences
6. Fearful sights and great signs from Heaven
7. The gospel preached in the whole world
8. Knowledge shall increase
9. False christs and false prophets
10. Many will abandon their faith and will follow deceiving spirits
11. Increased wickedness
12. Persecution of Christians
13. Great earthquakes
14. The sign of Israel
15. Israel surrounded by armies

Indisputable Last Day Signs:

16. A covenant will be made to allow sacrifices and offerings
17. Rebuilding of the Temple
18. God's Two Witnesses
19. The beast will implement his mark
20. The covenant will be broken
21. The beast will declare he is God

See the next page for thought-provoking questions.

Bible Study Thought-Provoking Questions



The purpose of the questions is to facilitate a deeper understanding of the Bible and the Bible study topic. The questions may be answered by the individual reader; or used by a Bible study group leader or church pastor. The following questions should be answered or discussed after reading “21 Signs of the Last Days.”

There are two types of questions: lesson and opinion. Lesson questions (preceded by a number) are provided an answer (on page 81). Opinion questions (preceded by an ①) are designed to enhance learning via the determination of opinions and/or discovering how the lesson content illuminates our personal lives. As such, no answers are provided.

Questions (Do your best to respond to each lesson question before looking at the answer.)

- ① Do you think we are in the last days?
- ① The 21 signs are segmented into two categories: disputable and indisputable. Why?
 1. Can you recall the 15 disputable last day signs?
 2. Can you recall the 6 indisputable last day signs?
- ① Do you see any disputable signs occurring today? If so, which ones?
- ① Have any indisputable signs occurred?
- 3. When the disciples asked Jesus about the last days, what were his first words of response?
- ① Why do you think Jesus initially responded with this warning?
- 4. Who is the “mystery of lawlessness and the one restrained—whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth?”
- 5. Who is the “He” in “He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way.”?
- ① What are the consequences as the “one” is unrestrained?
- 6. Which indisputable last day sign initiates the Tribulation?
- 7. It says in Revelation 11:7-10 that the dead bodies of the Two Witnesses will lie in the streets—where peoples, tribes, tongues and nations will see their bodies for 3 ½ days. Has the fulfillment of this prophecy been possible at any time throughout history? What has changed to support fulfillment?
- 8. Each person who is living when the Mark of the Beast is implemented will be compelled to accept or reject the mark. Describe the positives and negatives of accepting/rejecting the mark.
- ① Can you identify any event in the Bible when God delivered destructive judgment—and He did not provide prior warning to those persons who had a heart-driven desire to seek Him?
- ① Why did God deliver His global destructive judgment (the flood) in the past?
- ① Why will God deliver His global destructive wrath during the Great Tribulation?

Answers

1. Page 76:
 - Deception
 - Wars and rumors of wars
 - Famine
 - Nation vs. nation, kingdoms vs. kingdoms
 - Pestilences
 - Fearful sights and great signs from Heaven
 - The gospel preached in the whole world
 - Knowledge shall increase
 - False christs and false prophets
 - Many will abandon their faith and will follow deceiving spirits
 - Increased wickedness
 - Persecution of Christians
 - Great earthquakes
 - The sign of Israel
 - Israel surrounded by armies
2. Page 76
 - A covenant will be made to allow sacrifices and offerings
 - Rebuilding of the Temple
 - God's Two Witnesses
 - The beast will implement his mark
 - The covenant will be broken
 - The beast will declare he is God
3. Page 14: "Take heed that no one deceives you." Mark 13:5
4. Page 15: Satan
5. Page 15: Holy Spirit
6. Page 42: The covenant to resume sacrifices and offerings. It necessitates the rebuilding of the Temple and initiates the 7-year Tribulation.
7. Page 46: Not possible until introduction of the Internet, computers, cell phones and streaming video.
8. Page 49: See graphic.

