LIGHT FOR THE LAST DAYS

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SOS

Is the world falling apart or coming together?

The veteran philosopher and political activist, Noam Chomsky, wrote in April's edition of the Spectator magazine: "We're approaching the most dangerous point in human history... We are now facing the prospect of destruction of organised human life on Earth."
Chomsky is not the only one warning of a time of extreme danger and crisis coming on the earth. Bible prophecies written centuries ago all point to such a time, when the things that are happening now will come together in a period known as the last days.

For example in Jeremiah 25.31-33 we read:
Behold, disaster shall go forth from nation to nation, and a great whirlwind shall be raised up from the farthest parts of the earth. And at that day the slain of the Lord shall be from one end of the earth even to the other end of the earth.

In answer to the disciples' question 'What will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?' Jesus said:
For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows.' Matthew 24.3, 7-8.

Wars, famines, plagues and natural disasters are all on the increase causing us to see the 'beginning of sorrows' period.

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Jesus goes on to say that this will lead to the great tribulation: ***'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. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.'*** Matthew 24.21-22. If God did not intervene to stop this time it would lead to the end of life on earth. This time will come to an end when Jesus returns to the earth. He will come this time in power and glory, as prophesied in Daniel 7.13-14 and Matthew 24.29-31:

Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. Matthew 24.29-31.

Bible prophecy shows that two apparently contradictory trends will be taking place in the days before the Second Coming. The world will be falling apart, but also coming together.

World falling apart.

The war in Ukraine and the terrible destruction it has brought is the most obvious present threat, as the Russian invasion and NATO's response have brought the global security order to the brink of collapse, with a danger of nuclear war. Russia's attack on Ukraine has brought devastation to much of Ukraine, and an ongoing humanitarian disaster to its population. Putin has turned Russia into a rogue state, a dictatorship that has brought devastation to Ukraine and a humanitarian disaster to the region in his vain attempt to restore the power Russia had under the Soviet Union. The Ukraine war has increased the number of people around the world who have fled their homes and become refugees due to wars, famines and repressive regimes.



We are also seeing a growing financial crisis in the world as prices rise and there is a shortage of essential supplies. In many countries millions are crushed by absolute poverty and starvation. Western economies, already massively in debt since the crisis of 2008, are now on the verge of meltdown as a result of the Covid lockdowns and spending huge amounts of money they don't possess to pay for it all. Even in wealthy countries like Britain and the USA, many people are struggling to pay their bills and have enough to eat.

India and Pakistan have been hit by a deadly Spring heatwave as temperatures reach 49C, making life unbearable for people and damaging crops that millions rely on. This is blamed on greenhouse gas emissions with grim predictions of global warming making parts of the world

uninhabitable in the future.

The most immediate problem facing the world is the growing food crisis which some are warning could begin in the next six months and cause one-fifth of the entire population of the globe to descend into absolute poverty and hunger. A significant amount of grain has been removed from the world market due to the war in Ukraine, while droughts, floods, heatwaves, and unusually cold weather in places have affected food production around the world. Shortages of fertiliser and rising costs of fuel are causing farmers to cut back on production of food, while animal diseases are causing millions of pigs, chickens and fish to be slaughtered and removed from the food chain.



As a result prices of food and energy are skyrocketing driving millions into poverty. Speaking at the World Economic Forum conference in Davos David Beasley, director of the UN World Food Programme, warned the world's food security conditions are "worse" than what was observed during Arab Spring over a decade ago. That emergency led to revolutions toppling Arab governments in Tunisia, Libya, Egypt and the war in Syria, the massive refugee crisis and contributed to the collapse of Lebanon. What will this one do? Already we are seeing social unrest in Sri Lanka, which has run out of money, food and fuel, largely as a result of corruption on the part of its government. When people get hungry, they get angry and revolutions happen.

There is an interesting angle on this coming out of Iran. People have been taking to the streets in cities across Iran to protest about a massive hike in food prices. The government's answer is to bring in food subsidies. But there's a catch — the lower prices are only available to those who sign up to 'digital ration cards'.

Initially, the Iranian government compensated for the rise in prices of basic foodstuffs by handing out cash to 90% of the population; however, many analysts believe this would cause further inflation (which already stands at 40+%). The next stage will be a ceasing of those payments and in their place will be ration cards. If you want to pay the affordable prices, you'll need to 'take the card'. These can be refused to you if you don't behave as the government wants you to.

Iran is set to be the first country to roll out a food rationing scheme based on new biometric IDs. It is being helped by China in setting up this system. What better way to bend the masses to your will than making food prices so unattainable that the roll-out of food

passports are actually widely deemed necessary, by a population who are otherwise facing starvation? The shape of things to come worldwide? Henry Kissinger once said 'control food, control people.'

World coming together.

This leads us into thinking about the alternative trend – the world coming together. There have been a number of high level meetings of leaders from the world of finance, government and technology in search of such an answer to these problems. They want to save the world from catastrophe and resolve issues threatening humanity, like the health crisis (Covid), climate crisis and scarcity of food, energy and money.

The favoured solution proposed by UN Agenda 30 and the World Economic Forum's (WEF) 'Great Reset' is a humanist one based on a form of socialist world government. At the height of the Covid crisis in 2020 WEF Chairman, Klaus Schwab, released his book 'Covid 19 – the Great Reset' in which he wrote: 'This pandemic represents a rare but narrow opportunity to reflect, reimagine and reset our world.... The world should work for a new order which will 'only come about through some form of effective global governance.' Those working on this project have already seen how far they can go in using the fear of the virus and the vaccination programme to control the people and put them onto some kind of ID system which will monitor their vaccine status.

On the opening day of the World Government Summit in Dubai in March 2022 Klaus Schwab called for world leaders to unite to address global issues such as climate change, trade, and economic disruption.

The programme required for this must accelerate the changes to 'zero carbon'. This is backed by the UN and green lobby groups operating in all developed countries, that are demanding a drastic reduction in the use of fossil fuels. This must lead to higher prices and reduction in the availability of energy, which will add to the economic crisis coming on the world.

There are also plans to use the climate crisis to bring a new way of controlling the population. Michael Evans, president of Alibaba Group (a massive Chinese based hi tech company) told the WEF that the multi-billion-dollar company was creating a carbon footprint tracker to monitor people's consumption of energy around the world. "We're developing, through technology, an ability for consumers to measure their own carbon footprint. What does that mean? That's checking where are they travelling, how are they travelling, what are they eating, what are they consuming." They have not yet got this up and running but it ties in with a proposal to bring in something called 'ESG scores' (environmental, social and governance factors) that would monitor and record people's use of energy, with the power to cut off those who use too much.

At the same conference Dr Pippa Malmgren said, that the world is on the

brink of a dramatic change, which will bring an end to the traditional system of money and accounting. This will eliminate cash and bring in Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs), a fully digital system connected to blockchain technology run by the world's central banks. A new report from the Bank for International Settlements estimates that up to 90% of national central banks are at least in the planning stages for launching a central bank digital currency.

In this system people are required to have a digital ID connected to blockchain technology run by the central Bank system. This gives the bank (and potentially the government) the ability to check where people are getting their money from and so be used as a weapon in the battle against crime and tax evasion. They can also monitor every financial transaction you make from buying a house to a cup of coffee.

It also gives them the possibility to restrict you financially, if they think you are misbehaving in some way. In China the Credit Score system is integrated into an advanced surveillance system which can monitor where people go, who they meet, what they say on the Internet, what they spend their money on and so on. It gives the state the ability to restrict the activities of those they disapprove of, especially any who criticise the government. It has also been used to suppress freedom of religion and caused restriction on Christians' ability to preach the Gospel.

In order to participate in this programme people need a digital ID connected to a QR code on their mobile phones. There are photos of people in China scanning their code in, before they are allowed to enter shops or travel on public transport.

Mastercard has launched a program for retailers to offer biometric payment methods, like facial recognition and fingerprint scanning. At the checkout, users authenticate payment by showing their face or the palm of their hand instead of using cards or cash. The program has already gone live in five grocery stores in Sao Paulo, Brazil and trials planned for Asia and the Middle East and a worldwide roll out of the programme later this year. Supermarkets in London already have facial recognition cameras in place not just for security but for payment. Ajay Bhalla, the president of cyber and intelligence at Mastercard, said: "Our goal with this new programme is to make shopping a great experience and provide the best of both security and convenience." This could be a step towards a time when supermarkets will no longer accept cash or card payments, and instead require payment by facial or hand recognition.

Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla told the World Economic Forum in Davos that they are developing a tablet with a biological chip inside it. Once you take the tablet it dissolves into the stomach, while the chip sends a signal that you took the tablet that can be read on a scanner. He spoke how this could be used to monitor patients taking their required medicines in "specific" conditions such as "schizophrenia and cancers" to ensure compliance. It could

also be used as a means of controlling the general population. What if a supra national health organisation is given power to declare that all people must take it to save the world from pandemics?

In May the UN's 75th World Health Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland called for an international treaty on pandemics, drawing from the lessons learnt during the COVID-19 pandemic. World Health Organization (WHO) President Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said, 'There will be other pandemics and other major health emergencies. The question is not if, but when. Together, we must be better prepared to predict, prevent, detect, assess and effectively respond to pandemics in a highly coordinated fashion. To that end, we believe that nations should work together towards a new international treaty for pandemic preparedness and response. … We don't have rules of the game. To manage shared problems, like pandemics, you need laws and rules that bring obligations to countries.'



The plan is to work on drafting and negotiating this treaty to be discussed at the next meeting of the WHO in August, then delivered to the 76th World Health Assembly in 2023 with a view to adopting it by 2024.

Critics say this is a step towards 'global governance'. In the event of a future health crisis like the Covid pandemic, it would hand the WHO control over national governments. They would be able to order mandatory vaccines, global digital health IDs, lockdowns, isolation, testing regimes, no-jab-no-job rules, or anything else it decides as policy, irrespective of dissenting national voices. This treaty would inject a new supra-national global governance structure on the world in times of what we are being told is an inevitable, future pandemic or declared global health emergency. The planned treaty also contains a clause for dealing with 'misinformation' which could include questioning what the WHO decrees. In this way control of the narrative would be handed over to an unelected global body.

The danger of this was explained by Christine Anderson, a member of the European Parliament. She said, "The WHO is to be given de facto governmental power over member states in the event of a pandemic." She asked the EU Commission, "To what extent would it ensure that the principles of the people's rule would be respected and that citizens would not be subjected to the arbitrariness of the WHO." The answer she received was clear and brief: NOT AT ALL!

AI technology.

The biggest danger in all these measures is the development of Artificial Intelligence technology. There is already concern about the use of mRNA injections in the Covid vaccine and the effect these have on altering our natural immune system. Added to this is the technology known as CRISPR. Here is the New Scientist definition of CRISPR (https://www.newscientist.com): 'CRISPR is a technology that can be used to edit genes and, as such, will likely change the world. The essence of CRISPR is simple: it's a way of finding a specific bit of DNA inside a cell. After that, the next step in CRISPR gene editing is usually to alter that piece of DNA.' DNA is the building block of life. Altering it means altering who we are.

On November 20, 2017, an article appeared on Forbes website entitled, Transhumanism and The Future of Humanity: 7 Ways the World Will Change By 2030. The following quote from it appears under the heading of 'Our bodies will be augmented':

'The coming years will usher in a number of body augmentation capabilities that will enable humans to be smarter, stronger, and more capable than we are today. Wearables will be one form of body augmentation, but they will far surpass the fitness trackers of today.... We will also see increased use of implants ranging from brain microchips and neural lace to mind-controlled prosthesis and subdermal RFID chips that allow users to unlock doors or computer passwords with the wave of a hand.'

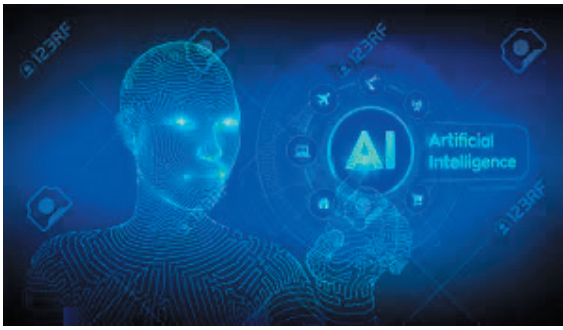
It speaks of "powerful CRISPR gene-editing technology which may one day give us the ability to eliminate all heritable diseases. These body augmentation capabilities will give rise to humans that are more resilient, optimized and continually monitored.'

Note the phrase 'continually monitored.' In the wrong hands this technology opens the way for a few powerful people to control the mass of humanity. This ties in with what the Bible says will happen in the last days immediately before the return of Jesus Christ.

Consider these words from Yuval Harari, an Israeli technology guru, from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, who is a speaker at high level WEF events. He is highly intelligent and articulate, as well as being dismissive of God, stating that the Bible is fiction, there is no God in the universe and the story of Jesus rising from the dead is fake news. He said recently that God is dead, but He just hasn't been given a decent burial yet. Here are some quotes from his speeches, including one at the Empowerment Foundation in Lausanne Switzerland. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xhpXU0x5894



'The potential of AI is much bigger than any historical revolution. It's really a biological revolution. Now we can give them the tools to start changing or overcoming biology. Humans are hackable animals. This is the result of the enormous scientific and technological revolutions in Infotech and Biotech, now combining in a single revolution. Biological knowledge times computing power times data equals the ability to hack human beings. Once this is possible it means that whoever understands me better than I understand myself can not only predict my decisions and choices, but increasingly take those decisions on my behalf. It means shifting the authority from humans to algorithms. Now for the first time in human history, maybe in ten or twenty years time, some governments and corporations will have enough biological knowledge and computing power and data to systematically hack millions or billions of human beings. We need to take counter measures or this will mean the end of liberal democracy as we know it and the end of free market economics, based on the idea that the customer is always right. Now governments in a democracy represent the will of the people and corporations serve the desire of the people. But what happens if the government and corporations can not just anticipate the will and desire of the voters and consumers, but also manipulate and control them? The people and the governments do not understand the significance of what is happening in the world. More and more decisions taken on our behalf will be taken by algorithms. Who designs these algorithms and on what ethical basis is crucial for our survival.'



'The current global emergency is creating the conditions when people might be willing to accept the changes required. It is said you should never allow a good crisis to go to waste, because a crisis is an opportunity to do reforms that in normal times people will never agree to. In a crisis you have no choice so let's do it. The vaccine will help us. People will look back in a hundred years and recognise that the coronavirus was a time when a new regime of surveillance took over, especially surveillance under the skin.'

'We need some kind of global identity and global loyalty. The potential of AI (artificial intelligence) is much bigger than any historical revolution. It's really a biological revolution. Now we can give ourselves the tools to start changing or overcoming biology. By hacking the organism science can gain the power to engineer the power of life itself. In the coming decades AI and biotic life forms will give us godlike ability to reengineer life and even create completely new life forms. We are about to enter a new era of inorganic life shaped by intelligent design – our intelligent design. We

will be upgrading humans, developing bigger powers, upgrading humans into gods.' Harari admits that this process might enable human elites to 'build digital dictatorships. ... Once human life is hacked, the hackers will maintain control over life itself.'

Note these phrases: 'be continually monitored' 'build digital dictatorships', 'have control over life itself'. An article by Jonathan Brentner on Prophecy News Watch claims that things are already in place to bring this to pass.

1. Set up global ID system which enables you to operate a digital financial network. There is already a plan being worked on under Patent WO2020 060606. Note the number 060606!

2. Include everyone in this through ID 2020, an initiative that seeks to provide 1.1 billion people in the poor regions of the world with the legal identification that they currently lack; it will give them a digital ID, so that the globalists can include them into their system of worldwide control, vaccinate them, and thereby continually monitor and dictate their behaviour.

3. "Quantum dot" technology may be the way this will be enforced connecting to the mark of the beast by which the antichrist will mark those who belong to him by tattooing their right hand or forehead. The "Quantum Dot" will inject a vaccine and leave a tattoo on the skin at the same time. This will connect the recipient to an external digital source via the ID2020 technology to verify that it has been received. Initially, this will vaccinate the individual as well as leave a tattoo, perhaps visible, that will electronically reveal his or her vaccine status.

Jonathan Brentner writes. 'Together, these three initiatives lay out a clear path to what will become the "mark of the beast" by the halfway point of the tribulation. By then, the electronic tattoo will appear on one's forehead and hand and reveal one's ability to buy and sell as well as to the degree they are able to participate in such activities. This tattoo will be the only means of participating in market of goods and services.'

'Before the dawn of this century, it would have taken an army of several hundred thousand to control the buying the selling across the planet and even then, it would not have been fool proof. Now with artificial intelligence and all the many advances related to transhumanism, the technology exists for one person to do this. That person will be the antichrist. The globalists will have everything in place before he steps onto the world stage. Because of the speed at which technology and transhumanism are advancing, everything will be ready for him when the time comes for him to appear on the world's stage.'

Babel / Babylon and the Second Coming.

This may sound like a weird sci fi script, but very intelligent and powerful people are taking it seriously. It is actually an expression of human rebellion against God and is doomed to failure and defeat in God's time, although it may have its hour of

apparent victory for a brief while in the time of the antichrist.

At the time of the Tower of Babel in Genesis 11 we read how humanity came together as one, to ***'make a name for ourselves' and 'build a tower reaching up to heaven.' And the Lord said, "Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them.'***

This project was done in rebellion against God, so the Lord came down to scatter them and confuse their languages. God saw the danger of humanity uniting against His will and creating something monstrous. Now God sees the danger of AI and the human potential movement, which goes much further down the road which began at Babel. As technology develops, 'Nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them.' Hacking humans and trying to turn them into 'gods' in our own image is really asking for trouble from the God who made us in His image. The fact that people are seriously considering this as a possibility is another reason why the Lord has to return soon to save us from ourselves.

A 'digital dictatorship' backed by technology with 'surveillance under the skin' sounds something like the scenario prophesied in the Bible, Revelation chapter 13, where we read of the world government of 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. 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 13.16-18.

Past generations wondered how such a system could be brought to pass, but now we see the way technology is developing with the potential to give people some kind of ID mark imprinted on their bodies which opens up the system enabling them to buy and sell and enter into society.

At the same time we see that a system based on computers, the Internet, hi tech and Artificial Intelligence is vulnerable to going terribly wrong. Quite apart from the spiritual aspects that we have talked about in this article, it is vulnerable to attacks from hackers, cyber terrorists, computer viruses, energy shortages, human errors and natural disasters which can cause machines to malfunction.

Revelation 18 describes the sudden collapse of the Babylon world system at the time of the end, as it is hit by a great calamity from which it cannot recover:

'After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory. And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every

foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird! For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury."
And I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues. For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities. Render to her just as she rendered to you, and repay her double according to her works; in the cup which she has mixed, mix double for her. In the measure that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, in the same measure give her torment and sorrow; for she says in her heart, 'I sit as queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow.' Therefore her plagues will come in one day—death and mourning and famine. And she will be utterly burned with fire, for strong is the Lord God who judges her. "The kings of the earth who committed fornication and lived luxuriously with her will weep and lament for her, when they see the smoke of her burning, standing at a distance for fear of her torment, saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour your judgment has come.'



Babylon represents the end time world system, which is spiritually connected to the Tower of Babel in Genesis (note Babel and Babylon are the same word in the Hebrew text of the Bible). God sees the evil power of the devil behind this system. So we should 'Come out of Babylon' and commit ourselves to the Lord Jesus Christ who alone is able to save us from the coming judgement on earth. When Jesus returns He will make a complete end of the Babylon world system and set up His righteous kingdom in which there will be peace and justice for all who enter in. To have a place in this coming kingdom we must now repent of sin and believe the Gospel:
'Christ / Messiah died for our sins according to the Scriptures, He was buried, and He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.'
1 Corinthians 15.3-4.

Is the world going to come to an end someday?



There is a website called Quora https://www.quora.com where you can post questions for discussion on any issue and put answers to other people's questions. One of the questions that came up recently was
'Is the world going to come to an end someday?'
I put a reply to this: 'Yes but not for at least 1007 years.' How did I come to this figure?

According to the Bible certain events are yet to come:

1. The 7-year period known as the Great Tribulation, which will precede the Second Coming of Messiah / Christ to the earth (see Matthew 24.15-31, Revelation 6–19).

2. The reign of Messiah, after His Second Coming. According to Revelation 20 this will be a 1000 period bringing peace and justice to the earth as promised by the Hebrew prophets for the Messianic Age. (Isaiah 2, 11, Zechariah 14 etc).

3. The end of the world when God will create new heavens and a new earth in which there will be righteousness. (2 Peter 3, Revelation 21).

This scheme of events is based on the pre-millennial view of scripture which says that the second coming of Christ is not the end of the world, but the end of the age. In Matthew 24 Jesus answered the disciples' question, ***'What will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"*** In the Authorised Version of the Bible the question concerns 'the end of the world', but the word used in the original is the Greek word 'aion' which is better translated 'age' than world.

After the return of the Messiah there will be a 'new age' which will last for 1000 years, during which time He will rule over the earth and restore it to how God wanted it to be in the beginning. If we add together the seven years of tribulation and the 1000 years of the Millennial reign of Messiah we come to my figure of at least 1007 years before the end of the world. It may be longer, since we are not yet in the tribulation period and we do not know when that will begin.

Here are some of the things the Bible prophesies for the end of this age.

1. There will be an increase in wars, famines, plagues and earthquakes leading to a time of great trouble on the earth. Luke 21.10-11.

2. The earth will be full of violence 'as in the days of Noah' and many people will be afraid of what is going to happen. Luke 17.26-27, Luke 21.25-6, Genesis 6.11.

3. There will be sexual immorality 'as in the days of Lot' (Sodom and Gomorrah). Luke 17.28-8, Matthew 24.12, Romans 1.24-27, 2 Timothy 3.1-9.

4. There will be widespread pollution of the earth and problems with the environment. Isaiah 24, Revelation 8.6-11.

5. There will be a restoration of Israel as a Jewish land. There will be a conflict over Jerusalem which will involve all nations of the world. Ezekiel 36-9, Zechariah 12-14, Luke 21.20-24, Revelation 16.16.

6. There will be a globalisation process which will bring nations together. An antichristian world government will arise out of this. Revelation 13.

7. There will be an increase in technology. Daniel 12.4, Revelation 13.11-18.

8. There will be false prophets who will lead people astray and cause confusion about God and salvation. Matthew 24.5, 24.23-27, Revelation 17.1-6.

9. There will be an attack on the basic truths of the Bible and opposition to those who teach the Gospel. Matthew 24.10-11, 2 Timothy 4.2-5, 2 Peter 2, 1 John 2.18-23.

10. The message of the Gospel will reach all nations despite opposition and persecution. Matthew 24.9-14, Matthew 28.18-20.

These things happening now are all signs of the soon coming of Jesus Christ. They also mean that the human race is on the way to the great tribulation period (Matthew 24.15-31) which I wrote about in the previous article. At this time there will be a time of trouble unlike any that has been before or ever will be again. Hebrew prophets also speak about such a time in passages like Isaiah 24, Jeremiah 30, Daniel 12. Jesus says that if God did not cut short this time 'no flesh would be saved', which means it would be the end of life on earth.

Evidence that this is a seven-year period is based on the interpretation of the 'seventy weeks of years' prophecy in Daniel 9.20-27. This concludes with a seven-year period that brings this age to an end. This time will begin with some kind of peace agreement between the coming antichrist and Israel. In the middle of this time, the abomination of desolation, which Jesus refers to in Matthew 24, will be set up leading to the final judgement which is poured out on the one responsible for this (the coming antichrist).

This time of trouble is described in more detail in the Book of Revelation, chapters 6-19. According to Revelation 6, which contains the famous four horsemen of the apocalypse passage, the seven-year tribulation period will start with one known as the beast or antichrist, riding out 'conquering and to conquer'. His rise to power will be followed by war, famine and mass death. Midway through the seven-year period of the tribulation the image of the beast will be placed in the holy place (the abomination of desolation) and bring in the Mark of the Beast system (666).

Revelation 13.5 says this will go on for 42 months which is 3 ½ years, the last half of the seven-year period. Daniel 9.27 says the abomination will be set up in the middle of the week (half way through the 7 years) and Daniel 7.25 speaks of the 'time, times and half a time' (time = 1 year, times = 2 years, half a time = half a year, total = 3 ½ years). So we conclude that the tribulation

is a 7 year period, divided into two halves of 3 ½ years. During this time humanity's decadence and depravity reach their fulness and are judged by God accordingly.

The highlight of this will be the Mark of the Beast system which will attempt to control people by causing them to receive a mark on their right hand or forehead which will give them the ability to buy and sell (participate in society). This system may use advanced technology, as we describe in the previous article to accomplish this. To receive the mark, you must worship the image of the beast. If you don't, you will be cut out of society. If you do, you will damned to hell forever. Revelation 13.14-18, 14.9-11. The judgement of God will be poured out on this wicked system and it will eventually collapse in the 'fall of Babylon' (Revelation 18).

Many people will resist it and turn to Christ during the tribulation time (Revelation 7). These ones will face persecution at the hands of the beast (Revelation 13.9-10). Many of them will be killed, though there will be survivors who keep true to Jesus, refuse the mark and survive this time. This terrible time in earth's history comes to an end with the war of Armageddon and the second coming of Christ to the earth (Revelation 16.12-16, 19.11-21), when He destroys the rule of the beast and 'the kingdom of this world becomes the kingdom of our God and of His Messiah and He shall reign forever and ever' (Revelation 11.15).

At His return Jesus will come as King of kings and Lord of lords with all the power of God at His disposal. He will throw the beast and the false prophet straight into hell. He will return with all the true believers who have died during the church age. They will be resurrected and joined by those who are alive at the rapture of the church ((Jude 14-15, Revelation 19.14, Zechariah 14.5, I Thessalonians 4.15-18). He will resurrect all Old Testament believers (Daniel 12.1-3, 13) and all believers who were killed during the tribulation time (Revelation 20.4).

Those who physically survive the tribulation will be gathered at the 'sheep and goats' judgement, when the goats (unbelievers) will be cast off the earth and the sheep (believers) will enter into the Messianic kingdom and repopulate the earth during the Millennial reign of the Messiah (Matthew 25.31-46).

The Lord Jesus will then take up His Messianic rule, ruling the world from restored Jerusalem and bringing peace and justice to the world (Isaiah 2.1-4, Zechariah 14, Revelation 11.15, Revelation 20).

During this time the devil will be bound in a place called the abyss and unable to deceive the people living on earth (Revelation 20.1-3). At the end of this time the devil will be loosed for a while and go out and gather rebels against the Lord to himself for the final battle (Revelation 20.7-10). The Bible indicates that there will be children born to survivors of the tribulation, some of whom will sin against the Lord, despite living in the best of all possible worlds (Isaiah 65.20, Zechariah 14.17-19, Revelation 20.8).

At this point God will bring about the end of the world and create the new heavens and the new earth where the redeemed will live forever:
'But the day of the Lord will come as a

thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. … We, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.' 2 Peter 3.10-13.

'Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." Revelation 21.1-4.

Those who are not redeemed, whose names are not in the book of life will be judged at the Great White Throne judgement.
'Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.' Revelation 20.15.
That is what will happen at the end of the world.

So what about the 1007 years?

My figure of 1007 years actually will only happen if the tribulation period begins this year, which most likely will not be the case. So I said 'at least' 1007 years, but it is probably more than that. There is another event which must take place in the last days scenario. We don't know the day or the hour when this will happen. It could be tomorrow or it could be years in the future.

This event is known as the rapture of the church. It is described in I Thessalonians 4.16-18.

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.

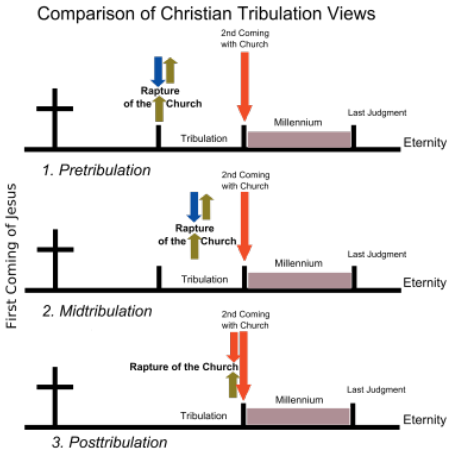
At this event there will be a meeting of all those who have died as believers in Jesus Christ and been resurrected and those who are alive at the time of the rapture. They will be supernaturally caught up to meet the Lord in the air (outside of this realm in some heavenly space). At this point our mortal bodies will be changed into immortal bodies, no longer subject to sickness, ageing and death (I Corinthians 15.50-58). We will then always be with the Lord. So where He is, we will be. If He is in heaven, we will be with Him in heaven. If He returns to the earth, we will be with Him on earth. It is worth being there because wherever He is it will be glorious. Wherever He is not, it will be horrible.

According to Matthew 24.36-44, this event will happen at an unknown date and we should be ready for it to happen at any time.
"But of that day and hour no one

knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. But as the days of Noah were so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left. 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."

Christians who believe the end time prophecies have different views of when this event will take place. Some say before or at the end or in the middle of the seven-year tribulation period. I have done a study called the 'Omega Course' which is available on request, and which looks at reasons for all three options. The conclusion that I come to is that the pretribulation rapture is the most likely one to be correct, although I acknowledge that there are valid reasons for believing alternative views and Christians should not fall out over this issue.

According to prophecy Jesus will come as a 'thief in the night', unexpectedly and unannounced. Jesus said, 'Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.' This concept fits best with the pre-tribulation view. This view says that the rapture could happen at any time now and so we need to be ready at all times for this event. If it happens at the middle or the end of the tribulation it cannot happen until certain events described in the great tribulation period have taken place. As these have not yet happened it cannot happen imminently.



Since the event has not yet happened, we should be open to all possibilities. If the pre tribulation rapture view is correct it could happen at any time, so we need to be ready for it now. If the rapture happens at the middle or end of the tribulation we need to be ready for the trials of living in that period, which may include suffering and dying for our faith. Either way we need to heed the words of Jesus: ***Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.*** Luke 21.28. We also need to 'redeem the time' by using the time that remains to serve the Lord and make Him known to the world in its distress.

2000 years – Israel and the Messiah



בְּאַחֲרִית הַיָּמִים תִּתְבּוֹנְנוּ בָהּ

In the latter days you will understand it

There is one other interesting factor on the subject of the timing of these events which we will look at in this article.

The Talmud which is the central text of Rabbinic Judaism and the primary source of Jewish law has this statement in b.Avodah Zarah 9a.

'The world is to exist for six thousand years; the first two thousand years are to be void; the next two thousand years are the period of the Torah, and the following two thousand years are the period of the Messiah. Through our many sins some of these have already passed and the Messiah has not yet come.'

An article on israel365.com website explains this: 'The Talmud (Tractate Avodah Zarah 9a) states that the world will last for 6,000 years. This is broken down into three periods: for 2,000 years, the world stood empty, for 2,000 years the world existed "in Torah", and the final 2,000 years will be the age when the Messiah may come, depending on mankind's actions. At the end of the 6,000 years, the Messiah must come, even if mankind has not prepared itself.'

The 2000 years of desolation are said to be the time from Adam to Abraham. The 2000 years of Torah are said to be the time from Abraham onwards (or Moses). This then leads to the 2000 years of the Messianic era. According to this reckoning, we should now be in the time of the Messiah.

The Medieval Jewish commentator, Rashi, explains this by saying: 'After 2000 years of Torah it was God's decree that the Messiah would come and the wicked generation would come to an end and the subjugation of Israel would be destroyed.' The reason Messiah has not come according to Rashi is because Israel's sins were many.

Rashi says that the Messiah did not come because of our sins, but the New Testament tells us that is precisely why Messiah did come. He came to save us from our sins, fulfilling the prophecy of the Suffering Servant Messiah of Isaiah: ***All we like sheep have gone astray we have turned everyone to his own way and the LORD has laid on Him (the Messiah) the iniquity of us all. ... For He was cut off from the land of the living;***

for the transgressions of My people He was stricken. Isaiah 53.6,8.

Messianic Jews and Gentiles believe this scripture was fulfilled in the person of Yeshua ha Mashiach, Jesus Christ. Therefore we are now in the age following Messiah's first appearing which happened around 2000 years ago.

The Talmud is not inspired scripture, but there is a passage in the Hebrew prophets which also points to a 2000 year period relating to the Messiah's appearances.

The prophet Hosea speaks of a time when Israel will be set aside from the purposes of God. This will not be a permanent condition, because Israel will return to the Lord at the end of days:

'For the children of Israel shall abide many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred pillar, without ephod or teraphim. Afterward the children of Israel shall return and seek the Lord their God and David their king. They shall fear the Lord and His goodness in the latter days.' Hosea 3.4-5.

Rabbi David Kimchi (1160-1235) commented on Hosea 3: 'These are the days of the present Gentile captivity in which we are in the power of the Gentiles, and in the power of their kings and princes, and we are without a sacrifice to God and without an image to false gods, and without an ephod and without teraphim – without an ephod to God by which we could foretell the future as with Urim and Thummim and without teraphim to false gods. And this is the condition of the children of Israel in this present captivity.'

This time of desolation was to last for 'many days' (Hebrew yamim rabbim), a long period of time of Jewish dispersion among the nations. This will come to an end when the children of Israel return to the Lord and David their king (David here speaks of Messiah son of David / Mashiach ben David, a Hebrew designation for the reigning King Messiah).

When did this time begin and when will it end? The answer relates to the concept of dispensations, or ages, recorded in the Bible. These are periods of time when God changes the way He relates His truth to the world. During the time from Moses to Messiah, God mediated His truth through Israel and the Law given to Moses. Following the coming of the Lord Jesus as the Messiah, He now mediates His truth through the new covenant. This is the message of the Spirit filled church made up of Jews and Gentiles who believe that Jesus is the Messiah. Jeremiah 31.31-34 prophesies the coming of the new covenant which God will make 'with the house of Israel and the house of Judah' by which they will come to know the Lord and receive forgiveness of sin and have God's law written on their hearts.

The Book of Acts describes the coming of the Holy Spirit on the Jewish disciples of Jesus. This happened on the Jewish feast of Shavuoth, Day of

Pentecost, which according to rabbinic Judaism celebrates the giving of the Torah to Moses at Sinai. Pentecost / Shavuoth took place fifty days after the death and resurrection of the Messiah and ten days after He departed from this earth and returned to heaven as recorded in Acts 1-2. Before His departure Jesus told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem until they received the Holy Spirit and then to go into all the world preaching the Gospel.

On the day of Pentecost Peter led the Jewish disciples of Jesus in preaching the Gospel. His message was that Jesus died for our sins and rose again from the dead, and that through repentance and faith in Jesus we can find forgiveness of sin and have eternal life. He preached to a crowd of Jewish people and 3000 of them were saved through faith in Jesus. The message spread from there first to Jews living in Jerusalem, Judea and the surrounding region and then to Gentiles and to the ends of the earth.

Note that this did not mean that God replaced Israel with the church, but that He replaced the Torah with the new covenant as the basis of His relationship with humanity. The new body of the church was built on the foundation of the law and the prophets and the new covenant mediated through the Messiah. The Jewish disciples of Jesus wrote these things down in the New Testament and were the first to spread His message into the world.

The book of Acts records that thousands of Jews, including many Pharisees, did come to believe in Jesus during the days of the early church. However the religious leadership continued to oppose the message of the Gospel and tried to prevent the apostles from preaching it. This led to the judgement of God falling on that generation in the destruction of the Temple and the city of Jerusalem in the year 70, after the failed Jewish revolt against the Romans. This was followed by the long years of Jewish dispersion amongst the nations of the world. This was specifically prophesied in Daniel 9.26 and in Luke 21.21-24.

A number of Hebrew prophets say there will be a return of the Jewish people to the land of Israel and the city of Jerusalem in the last days of this age (Isaiah 11, Jeremiah 31, Ezekiel 36, Zechariah 12). Hosea's prophecy indicates that there will also be a return of the Jewish people to the Lord in the latter days. In Hosea 5.14-15 we read of the Lord speaking to Israel, saying:

For I will be like a lion to Ephraim, and like a young lion to the house of Judah. I, even I, will tear them and go away; I will take them away, and no one shall rescue. I will return again to My place till they acknowledge their offence. Then they will seek My face; in their affliction they will earnestly seek Me.

Yeshua the Messiah came to our place, the earth, specifically to the land of Israel and to the Jewish people. He suffered rejection and crucifixion after an unjust trial before the Sanhedrin and the Roman governor Pilate. After His death He rose from the dead and appeared to His Jewish disciples for

40 days, before He returned to His place (heaven), giving His disciples the instruction to take His message into all the world. In this passage the one who returns to His place says He will remain there (in heaven) 'until they acknowledge their offence' (repent of rejecting Yeshua as Messiah and accept Him). This offence resulted in the long years of dispersion as the Lord says in Hosea, ***'I, even I, will tear them and go away; I will take them away, and no one shall rescue:'***

In Luke 21 Jesus prophesied the coming fall of Jerusalem at the time of the Jewish revolt against the Romans in the year 70. This would result in the dispersion of the Jewish people into the nations of the world.
But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near. Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her. For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! For there will be great distress in the land and wrath upon this people. And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. Luke 21.20-24.

The prophecy that Jerusalem would be trampled or ruled by the Gentiles 'until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled' speaks of the ongoing Gentile control of Jerusalem throughout this age until the time of the end when it will return to Israel and become the centre of God's rule on earth after the return of the Messiah Jesus. The present restoration of Israel as a nation with the regathering of the Jewish people to the land of Israel and Jerusalem is a sign of the soon coming again of the Messiah (Ezekiel 36, Jeremiah 31, Zechariah 12, Luke 21.24).

This process began with the events of Israel's restoration as a nation in 1948 and capture of the Old City of Jerusalem in 1967. It will reach its completion at the second coming of Jesus. This will be the end of the 'times of the Gentiles' (Gentile rule over Jerusalem) as prophesied in Daniel 2.44-45 and Daniel 7.13-14, and Zechariah 12-14.

Israel in unbelief was set aside as far as the salvation promises of God are concerned, in order that salvation would come to the Gentiles (see Romans 11). However the Jewish people remained an identifiable people through the years of dispersion, ready to be restored to God at the close of this age.

There are scriptures which indicate that in the end times Israel and the Jewish people will become central to God's purposes (Romans 11.11-32, Revelation 7, 11.1-13). Jesus prophesied to Jerusalem that at the time of His return, He will be greeted by the Jewish greeting for the coming Messiah ***'Baruch ha ba be shem Adonai' 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.'*** Matthew 23.39.

Zechariah 12 indicates that at the time of the end when the Jewish people are restored to Jerusalem and a world conflict is raging over the status of that city, God will reveal the One who has been pierced (died by crucifixion) as the unique Son of God and Son of Man – Yeshua / Jesus the Messiah: ***And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.*** Zechariah 12.10.

In Hosea Chapter 6 there is a call to return to the Lord and a promise of a revival of Israel's fortunes. ***Come, and let us return to the Lord; for He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up. After two days He will revive us; on the third day He will raise us up, that we may live in His sight. Let us know, let us pursue the knowledge of the Lord. His going forth is established as the morning; He will come to us like the rain, like the latter and former rain to the earth.*** Hosea 6.1-3.

The Lord will then reverse the work of judgement (He has torn, He has stricken) and bring in a time or healing and restoration. In verse two it says 'After two days he will revive us, on the third day He will raise us up.'

One interpretation of the 'third day' here is that it has something to do with Jesus rising from the dead on the third day. An alternative interpretation which I prefer is that it has something to do with a time frame of a 2000-year period (two days) coming to a close when God will restore the kingdom to Israel at the beginning of the third day (the final 1000-year period).

In scripture we have the concept of the day of the Lord being as a thousand years: ***For a thousand years in Your sight are like yesterday when it is past, and like a watch in the night.*** Psalm 90.4

But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 2 Peter 3.8.

So does this indicate that there will be a 2000 year gap between the first and second coming of the Messiah? Some people took hold of this idea and got excited about the year 2000 in connection with the second coming, but in the event nothing significant happened in 2000. The year 2000 is 2000 years after the birth of Jesus, although He was probably born between 4BC and 1BC. The BC / AD dating system was set up by a Roman scholar, Dionysus Exiguus, in the fifth century, who made a slight mistake in his calculations on the date of Jesus' birth.

Although the birth of Jesus was a wonderful event, it was not the event which set off the present dispensation or age, as far as the Bible is concerned. That happened with the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus and the sending of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. God set in motion the new dispensation, through which He

puts us right with Himself through faith in Jesus the Messiah who died for our sins, was buried and rose again on the third day. This message of the Gospel gave birth to the true church (the ecclesia or called out ones of God) made up of Jews and Gentiles who believe in Jesus.

The date of the crucifixion and resurrection of the Messiah is somewhere between 30 and 33 AD. This is the most significant event in history, the day when the Lord Jesus sealed the new covenant in His blood, through which all who believe receive forgiveness of sin, eternal life and come to know God (Jeremiah 31.31-34). If you add 2000 years to this date you come to 2030 – 2033.

So, am I saying that this is the date of the return of the Messiah to the earth and the end of the age as described in our previous article? Not necessarily because there are unknown factors which remain. But it is at least interesting in the light of the way prophetic events are hastening to come to pass in our time. If this is the case, we can expect the next ten years to see very significant things happening in relation to Bible prophecy. It is interesting that 2030 is the date the UN has set for its Agenda 30 to be fulfilled.

Whatever the date of His coming is, the Lord told us to watch and wait for His return which is the 'blessed hope' of the true believing church:

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.
Titus 2.11-14.

The return of the Messiah will bring about the fulfilment of Isaiah's prophecy of the Messiah reigning from Jerusalem and bringing peace to the world:

Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.
Isaiah 2.2-4

Signs of the Times

Russia and China in alliance for a 'multipolar world order.'

In a recent meeting with his Chinese counterpart, Wang Yi, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov affirmed his country's keenness on the steady and continuous development of relations with China, noting that the two countries intend to move forward towards "a multipolar, fair, and democratic world order." For his part, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said Russian-Chinese relations "have withstood new tests by changes in the international situation, maintained the right direction, and demonstrated a solid development trend."

In a joint statement issued following the meeting, the two ministers "stated that in light of the challenging international situation, Russia and China continue to strengthen their strategic partnership and speak with a unified voice in global affairs."

Commenting on this Terry James of Rapture Ready News writes: 'As I view it, with this declaration by Russia and China to claim their part of the multipolar world order, the three major power blocs of final prophetic fulfilment are now brightly lighting up God's radar scope. The Antichrist system, with all of the so-called Deep-State intrigues and COVID-type manipulations (i.e. NATO, western alliance); the Russian system that will influence a confluence of nations to attack Israel, as given by Ezekiel; and China, the growing power of the regions east of the Euphrates set to dominate all within their sphere...all is in readiness.'

Interestingly in George Orwell's 1984, written in 1948 as a grim prediction of a world under totalitarian control by 'Big Brother', there are three power blocs constantly at war with each other. They are Oceania, which includes the Americas allied to the British Isles, Eurasia, including the rest of the European continent and the Asian part of Russia, and Eastasia centring on China. The countries in between are the subject of constant wars for control by these three power blocs. They have shifting alliances between each other and ensure that there is a constant state of conflict between them. Big Brother's slogan is 'War is peace, freedom is slavery, ignorance is strength'.



This is not too far out from the current situation, apart from the fact that

western Europe has been part of the NATO alliance (Oceania), which was set up as a defence against the Soviet Union (Eurasia) and its allies. In 1989 we saw the fall of Communism in eastern Europe and the end of the Soviet Union in 1991. This led to a large area from the Baltic States down to Bulgaria, which was once part of the Russian (Eurasian) influence, being transferred to the western (Oceania) influence. The present war over Ukraine can be seen as a conflict between Russia (Eurasia) and NATO / EU (Oceania) over the status of Ukraine. Russia considers Ukraine to be part of its territory and the west / EU seeks to bring into its sphere of influence. China (Eastasia) is in a current alliance with Russia, and also in a state of conflict with the western alliance (USA in particular), which may end in another conflict taking place over Taiwan or over the Korean peninsula.

These powers are currently engaged in some way in the Middle East, where the conflict centring on Israel appears to be moving towards the fulfilment prophesied in the Bible for the end of this age. Our next item raises this possibility as something on the horizon of current world events.

Israel, Iran and the nuclear bomb.

On 11th June Israel launched its second strike on Damascus airport in less than a week. Using surface to surface missiles it hit weapons depots containing arms just imported from Iran. Runways and the control tower were hit causing the airport to be put out of use for all flights. This latest Israeli action against Iran in Syria led to a sharp condemnation by the Russian government of Vladimir Putin, which has moved its forces into Syria and now has a controlling influence over what happens there. This could have repercussions for the already tense relations between Moscow and Jerusalem.

Iran has broken the agreement made with the international community over its nuclear programme by shutting down cameras monitoring its nuclear sites in defiance of the International Atomic Energy Agency. The IAEA warned that Iran is in the process of installing hundreds of new IR-6 centrifuges at its underground Natanz uranium enrichment plant.
This new activity will bring Iran even faster to the so-called 'breakout capacity,' and from there it's only a matter of time before the Islamic Republic will be able to produce a nuclear warhead that it can mount on one of its long-range missiles.
The Islamic Republic has already enriched enough uranium up to the 60 percent mark to make a crude atomic bomb, nuclear experts say. The further enrichment of Iran's uranium hexafluoride gas to the required 90 percent takes only a few weeks, meaning Iran is well on the way to producing a nuclear bomb.
Israel sees this as a threat to its existence. Israeli PM Naftali Bennet has said that the government in Jerusalem reserves the right to end Iran's nuclear programme through its own direct action. This is not an empty threat

and it is becoming increasingly clear that the Israeli military apparatus is currently preparing for a major confrontation with Iran and the bombing of nuclear facilities in the Islamic Republic. Israel's F-35s are prepared for an attack on Iran, having succeeded in designing a system that eliminates the need to refuel its F-35 Adir stealth fighter jet mid-mission. The F-35 is a radar-invisible warplane that reportedly will be used in a future massive IAF air strike against Iran's nuclear facilities. IAF engineers have also succeeded in placing a 1,000 kg bomb in the body of the thirty-six F-35s available to the Israeli Air Force. A massive air exercise by IAF aircraft took place over the Mediterranean in early June which Jerusalem said was intended to simulate a multiple-front war with Iran.

Israel is also trying to strengthen and expand the anti-Iran coalition with Arab countries, that are also threatened by Iranian aggression. The Gulf countries with which Israel signed peace agreements in 2020 already have Israeli radar and air defence systems. The IDF and Mossad reportedly also have a base in Bahrain, one of Israel's new peace partners, and this has given Israel another chance to operate closer to the borders of Iran. There are intensive contacts between the IDF and Azerbaijan, a predominantly Muslim country, situated on the western border of Iran. Contacts between Israel and Saudi Arabia are also ramping up, while Bennett made a surprise trip to Abu Dhabi in early June. All this has to do with the increasing likelihood that military action will be taken against Iran.

Iran has responded by saying they are aware of Israel's plan of action and are waiting for it. It will give them the excuse to wipe Israel off the map.

From the point of view of biblical prophecy Israel will not be wiped off the map as it has to be there in some form until the second coming of Jesus Christ / Messiah. After Messiah returns, far from being wiped off the map, Israel's borders will be extended to reach the borders promised to Abraham and Jerusalem will become the centre of the good world government of the Messiah. (see Isaiah 2.1-4).

If a conflict over Iran's nuclear programme is about to take place, it may precipitate the War of Gog and Magog, in which an alliance of nations comes against Israel and is supernaturally destroyed by God's intervention of Israel's behalf. This army will be led by a power coming from the uttermost north (Russia?) in alliance with many anti-Israel nations including Persia / Iran. It will meet its doom on the mountains of Israel. See Ezekiel 38-9. In this case Russia's power will be broken, possibly the US as well, as Ezekiel 39.6 speaks of fire falling on Magog (Russia) and the coastlands (a way of describing distant lands whose names were unknown in the days of the Bible). We wrote more about this event in our April 2022 edition which is available on request.

Future of the EU

A special "Future of the EU" Conference came to a conclusion on May 10th chaired by President Macron, and President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen. At the conference French President Macron announced that he is in favour of a new type of "political European community" that would allow countries outside the European Union (Britain in particular) to join "European core values". At the same time, he and fellow federalists are moving towards solidifying the EU as a united entity capable of projecting its power on the world scene.

The conference produced recommendations aimed at consolidating EU power, especially in the area of Common Foreign and Security Policy. This will enable the EU to speak with one voice and project itself as a truly global player, able to play a positive role in the world and make a difference to any crisis. It also contained a proposal (Recommendation 23) which could pave the way for the creation of a united EU army, with the first stage being a "rapid reaction military force" of 5000 troops.



On March 21, less than a month after Russia invaded Ukraine, European officials announced an ambitious plan for the EU to achieve "strategic autonomy" aimed at placing the 27-member bloc on equal footing with China and the United States. The implicit objective was to enable a "sovereign" EU to act independently of the United States and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in matters of defence and security.

The plan is not going too well at the moment. European unity over Ukraine is already in trouble after France and Germany have sought to appease Putin by saying that Russia should not be humiliated. French President Macron has called on Ukraine to make territorial concessions to help the Russian dictator save face. This has infuriated Central and Eastern European members of the EU who fear that if Putin's imperial pretentions are not stopped in Ukraine he will set his sights on them. Also Macron himself is now in trouble in France after failing to get a parliamentary majority for his 'Ensemble' coalition, with a strong showing for far right and far left parties, who are much more Euro sceptic. This will make it difficult for him to assert his hoped for leadership role in Europe.
The current situation regarding Russia has exposed another problem for the EU. Despite all the grandstanding over Russian sanctions and offers to bring

Ukraine into the EU, the cold harsh reality is Europe needs Russia's fossil fuels. Without Russian oil and natural gas, the lights go out. Industry comes to a screeching halt. Come winter, people freeze. This means, on the world stage, the EU is in a position of weakness in relation to Russia.
Europe therefore is looking for alternatives to Russian gas supply. The latest news is that EU President Ursula von der Leyen visited Israel on June 13-14 to finalise a historic deal between the EU, Israel and Egypt. This will allow Israel to supply trillions of cubic feet of natural gas to Europe, by liquidating it locally from its Leviathan gas field off the coast of northern Israel, and by exporting it via existing Egyptian facilities. This could be the reason that Russia comes down against Israel in the war of Gog and Magog (to take a spoil or plunder– Ezekiel 38.13). It may also be a factor in the EU becoming a major player in the coming peace deal with Israel, as a leading light in the final world empire of the antichrist (Daniel 9.27).

All of this raises the question of whether or not the European Union will emerge as the final world empire outlined in the Bible or whether it will fragment under the pressures that are on it. The Book of Daniel and the Book of Revelation point to a power which will emerge in the last days in the area of the Roman Empire (Daniel 2 and 7, Revelation 17). Daniel 7 describes the four 'beasts' that have power over Israel in Bible times, with the fourth beast being the Roman Empire. It implies that one will emerge in the last days out of the region of the Roman Empire who will be the 'little horn' the last ruler who opposes the Lord in the days before His return. Revelation 17.10 reads, 'There are seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, and one has not yet come. And when he come he must continue a short time.' The five fallen kings are previous empires, the one that 'is' is the Roman Empire which was in power at the time John wrote Revelation. The one who is yet to come is the antichrist power which will come out of the Roman Empire at the time of the end. Since World War II prophecy watchers have questioned whether the slow and steady unification of Europe is leading up to the emergence of this end time power. The Treaty of Rome, signed in 1957, was the first step in creating the European Union. This alliance has faced numerous growing pains along the way. These include squabbles over a single currency, trade rules, debt bailouts, Brexit, and hundreds of issues.
According to Daniel's prophecy this final world empire will be a kingdom that is both weak and strong. It is divided and made up of weak and strong nations that come together, but have difficulty holding together, as iron and clay do not mix. (Daniel 2.41-43).
It will have a connection to the old Roman Empire and its leader will make a covenant, peace treaty, with Israel for a seven year period, the time of the great tribulation (Daniel 9.26-27).
If the current crisis in Ukraine results in a single EU foreign policy and a unified EU military, the EU will take one more step toward becoming the global empire Daniel described. If Russia is knocked out in the coming war of Gog and Magog, the EU may move into the vacuum created with

its Middle East peace proposal (Daniel 9.27) which will push its leader to a position of world power. On a UK note, expect a concerted effort to unseat Boris Johnson's Brexit supporting government, and replace it with a Euro friendly alliance of parties who will seek to re-integrate the UK into the EU. Another reminder that these events taking place are not just random events but all pushing the world towards the coming climax of history and the return of the Messiah Jesus.

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Is this good for women?

On March 30th following a parliamentary debate, MPs voted on the government's 'Health and Care Bill' to make Pills by Post home abortions permanent by 215 votes to 188.

Responding to the outcome, Andrea Williams, chief executive of Christian Concern, said: *"This vote will have dire consequences for women, who will not receive the proper medical support they need and more easily be coerced by partners and family members. The vote in parliament today sends a message to women in crisis pregnancies that this is the best we can offer you – to have a traumatic and unsafe abortion home, often alone, without any clinical examination or private in-person conversation. MPs have been hoodwinked by abortion providers into believing that pills by post abortions are safe and should be made permanent.*
"FOI investigations show that 1-in-17 women who take these drugs end up in hospital; over 10,000 since pills-by-post abortion was introduced. We will not stop resisting and challenging this culture which forces through extreme abortion policies and puts thousands of women and unborn children at such risk."
Meanwhile some of our MPs now have difficulty in how to define a woman. Labour's Equality minister, Anneliese Dodds told BBC Radio 4's Women's Hour 'there are different definitions legally around what a woman actually is' – and said its meaning depended on the 'context'. Apparently to define a woman as a female adult human being risks being labelled as 'transphobic.'
Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson has been confirmed to the Supreme Court of the USA. She is a strong advocate of abortion rights and LGBT issues. During the confirmation hearings in the Senate she was asked if she could define the word "woman." She answered, 'No, Not in this context. I'm not a biologist.
In response her questioner, Senator Marsha Blackburn said: "The fact that you can't give me a straight answer about something as fundamental as what a woman is underscores the dangers of the kind of progressive education that we are hearing about. Just last week an entire generation of young girls watched our tax-funded institutions permit a biological man to compete and beat and biological a woman in the NCAA swimming championships. What message do you think this sends to girls who aspire to compete and win in sports at the highest levels?"

In the USA teachers, paediatricians, and social workers and children's cartoons and books are all promoting

this transgender ideology. You can have your children taken away if you fight back against it. When you fill out forms online there are now 10 different options for your gender. There are workplaces where you're forced to supply your "preferred pronouns".

Back to the UK, hospital trusts have now been issued with guidance that they should ask all patients, male or female, under the age of 60 if they are pregnant, 'regardless of how they may identify their gender'. When was the last time a pregnant man was treated in hospital?

With the world in a state of unprecedented crisis we find our leaders and lawmakers voting to kill babies in the womb by pills in the post, letting men who think they are women compete in female sports and go into refuges for vulnerable women and female wards in hospital, and asking men if they are pregnant. They engage in futile and ridiculous questions about what pronouns to use when addressing men and women and are even unable to answer a simple question on what it is to be male or female.

The ancient saying credited to Euripides, the Greek dramatist who lived in the fifth century BC comes to mind: 'Whom the gods would destroy they first make mad.'

Behind all this we see a concerted effort to impose an anti-God ideology on our society. This is based on a rejection of God's order in creation as we find in the Bible: 'So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him, male and female He created them.' Genesis 1.27. See also Genesis 5.1-2. Jesus taught in Matthew 19.4-5: 'Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife and the two shall become one flesh.'

The 'two becoming one flesh' is fulfilled in sexual intercourse between a man and a woman, out of which children are produced, thus securing the continuation of the species. The Bible teaches that sexual relationships should take place in the context of a marriage relationship in which husband and wife commit to be faithful to each other 'till death us go part' and to care for and provide for their children (Matthew 19.3-10, Ephesians 5.22-6.4). Obviously things can go wrong with this ideal and we are to help those who suffer bad consequences as a result of breaking God's commands on sexual purity. However we cannot change the Bible's teaching that sex outside of marriage is sinful in the eyes of God and needs to be repented of and forgiveness found through faith in Jesus Christ. From a biblical point of view, homosexual relationships can never be considered as marriage which is only valid as a heterosexual relationship between a man and a woman.

The difference between men and women is obvious in their sex organs which are designed by God for the purpose of the procreation of the species. This incredibly complex procedure could only have come about

by the deliberate design of God, never by the process of evolution. For one thing if it did not work the first time in the first humans (or any other creatures that reproduce sexually) that species would have died out. It could not have had millions of years to develop by evolution.

There are also a number of obvious differences which cannot be changed – like the fact that women have broader hips to facilitate child birth, have breasts which produce milk to feed the baby after birth, that men have deeper voices than women, have hair on their faces and are generally physically stronger than women.

What we see happening in our society is a form of madness in which children are being indoctrinated with the idea that they can choose their gender according to what they feel like, rather than the fact of male or female nature of their bodies. If a boy feels like he is a girl trapped in a boy's body, he is offered the choice of identifying as a girl and vice versa. Children are then offered puberty blocking drugs which cause permanent and irreversible changes to their bodies and make them infertile, something which previous generations would have considered a criminal act.

Now you are made to feel a criminal, accused of transphobia, if you oppose this. This is actually becoming a sinister form of mind control by a new kind of dictatorship. People are being forced into submission by LGBT activists working through the political and educational system and the media. You may be publicly named and shamed if you say what is obviously true that men are different from women and that this is something determined at birth and not dependent on what we feel like. We must bow down to the false gods of our time and deny what basic common sense tells us or we will be labelled as evil transphobic bigots and denied the right to express our opinions in public.

In many ways this is a preparation for the strong delusion in which people believe the lie in the time of the antichrist, as prophesied in 2 Thessalonians 2.9-12.

The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs and lying wonders, and with 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 might all be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.'
2 Thessalonians 2.9-12.

The interesting phrase here concerns the 'strong delusion that they should believe the lie.' What is the strong delusion referred to here? Some say it is the belief that the antichrist is god and should be worshiped as such. Whatever it is, it involves believing something which is obviously untrue. Part of the control mechanism of all totalitarian regimes, Nazi or Communist or religious groups that

demand submission to their followers, is to make people believe something that is manifestly untrue. They are made to affirm it by repeating slogans that are in fact lying propaganda. The more they repeat the lie, the more it becomes part of their mindset and identity as they come under a satanically controlled form of the groupthink.

Whether you are male or female, young or old, educated or not, you can work out that men and women are different. Women's rights are actually being eroded by the imposition of transgender ideas on society. The transgender delusion, that is being imposed on our youth, is a way of bringing people under the control of anti God forces that wish to enslave us not liberate us. The answer to this is to believe the truth revealed in the Bible.

We are human beings, a special creation in the eyes of God, made male and female, in the image of God. The difference between men and women is designed by God to complement each other, to produce children and to give glory to our amazing Creator who wants us to accept the way He has made us and love one another as God loves us in Jesus the Messiah. Let us not believe the devil's lies but the truth in Jesus. He is the way, the truth and the life and through Him we can be born again as sons and daughters of the living God. Jesus said, ***"If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."*** John 8.32.

Last Word

"And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near."
Luke 21.25-28

These are the words Jesus used to describe the last days crisis which will happen before His return. The phrase He used for 'the distress of nations with perplexity' in the original Greek is 'aporia', which means with no way out. The things we describe happening in this magazine describe problems with no way out as far as our human efforts are concerned. The people trying to sort it out now generally make things worse not better. This can cause people to be afraid and want to give up. There is an answer though. Jesus is coming. So don't panic and give up hope, but put your trust in Him and know that you have a glorious future in His coming kingdom. If you are not yet a believer, pray the prayer on the next page and ask Jesus to come into your life as Lord and Saviour. Maranatha – May the Lord come soon!

Conclusion



All the things that we write of in this magazine are pointers to the fulfilment of Bible prophecies of the last days in our day and the soon coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The most important thing we can do, in the light of this, is to call on the name of the Lord for salvation, so we are ready to meet Him at His coming.

Dear Heavenly Father, I admit that I am a sinner and need your forgiveness. I believe that Jesus the Messiah died in my place, shedding His blood to pay for my sins, and that He rose again from the dead to give me eternal life. I am willing right now to turn from my sin and accept Jesus the Messiah as my personal Saviour and Lord. I commit my life to you and ask you to send the Holy Spirit into my life, to fill me and to take control and to help me become the kind of person you want me to be.

Thank you Father for loving me.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

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