

The Iron and the Clay.

Will the world system fall apart or come together?



In the Bible there is a passage where God says “Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven.” The result of this shaking will be ‘the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain.’ Hebrews 12.26-27

God is going to shake the present world system and cause it to fall apart, and then put it together again in the Messianic kingdom which will be set up when Jesus returns to take back control of this planet. Many people reading this will say that it is impossible but stay with me as I give you evidence of the shaking that is on

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its way and what is going to come out of it. The Bible tells us that the present world system, given the code name 'Babylon' is going to fall at some time in the future. Current events suggest that event may not be too far away:

"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." Revelation 18.2-3.

All that will then remain will be the kingdom of God, which cannot be shaken because its foundation is in the God who created us and even now is holding back the day of trouble so that you and I can find the way to be saved from the coming disaster. How are we going to do that? To find that out you must turn to the end of this magazine.

Signs of the coming shaking

In case you haven't noticed, there is a massive conflict emerging in our world between powerful global forces struggling for power in an increasingly dangerous and unstable planet.

On one hand we see the nations of the world, mainly in the west, led by the United States, backed by NATO, the EU, and globalist organisations like the IMF (International Monetary Fund). Until the 1980s America and the west were confronted by the Soviet Union and

Communism in the east. The Soviet Union fell apart in 1991, leaving America the world's sole superpower, with great influence because of its strong military and the dollar's status as the world's reserve currency and the petrodollar arrangement by which the dollar became the currency of choice for large international payments like oil and gas. This gives America an advantage in economic terms.

Meanwhile globalist organisations arrived on the scene launching projects like the UN's Agenda 30 and World Economic Forum's (WEF) 'Great Reset', which aims at a restructuring of the world's economic and political system. The WEF's Davos conference brings together world leaders in business, politics, media, education etc to work at finding global solutions for global problems, some of whom are talking about the need for some form of world government.

Challenging American dominance, we also see the emerging BRICS group of nations (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa). This brings together nations from the developing world and was joined in January 2024 by Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Russia and China are driving forces in the BRICS alliance. Russian President Putin, in conference with Chinese leader Xi Jinping, proposed replacing what he calls the unipolar world order, dominated by the US and allies, with a multipolar world order. One of the aims of this is to remove the dollar's status as the world's reserve currency and bring in a new economic

system, backed by China, which is now the world's second largest economy. On 9th June Saudi Arabia did not sign the renewal of the 50 year old petrodollar arrangement and began to accept payment for oil from China in yuan, the Chinese currency, which is bad news for America.



Decline of America. All of this could lead to the decline in the value of the dollar, leading to a major crisis in the US economy, which is \$35 trillion in debt. Its banking system is in trouble with \$517 billion in losses, businesses are failing, stores are closing down, due to rapidly slowing economic conditions, as well as an unprecedented wave of shoplifting and theft. The value of commercial real estate properties has crashed as a result of lockdowns in Covid and people getting into the habit of working from home. Properties once worth hundreds of millions of dollars are now worth next to nothing. Many sit empty in hollowed out urban core areas where crime and homelessness run rampant.

In March 2023, a run on the Silicon Valley bank triggered a wider banking

crisis. Within just a few months, the USA witnessed some of the largest bank failures in its history. This had global repercussions, including the fall of Credit Suisse, a globally important bank, which was forced into a shotgun marriage with the Union Bank of Switzerland in order to avoid failure. The world managed to dodge a full-fledged banking crisis with contagion spreading to banks throughout the world (as happened in the Credit Crunch of 2008) because of a number of measures undertaken by central banks. As a result US banks are currently sitting on hundreds of billions of dollars in unrealized losses on their bond portfolios. If another bank run begins, a real possibility exists it could get out-of-control, spreading contagion throughout the global banking system, causing the greatest crisis since the Great Depression of the 1930s.

Europe. It's not much better in Europe. De-industrialisation is taking place in Germany as a result of the energy crisis caused by the Ukraine war and environmental policies, which have caused the closing down of its nuclear power plants. This threatens to destabilise the economy of the European Union, which Germany's industrial might has kept afloat up to now. Across Europe there is a general loss of faith in political leaders, a cost of living crisis and a growing conflict between far right and far left political parties over the migration issue.

The UK election 2024 campaign has been dominated by politicians promising to improve our lives with lower taxes and better services, but no one is telling

us who will pay for it all. Councils are running out of money to pay for services and more and more people find themselves suffering from poverty and crime, as many aspects of society are beginning to fall apart. God and the Bible have been pushed out of our society, as moral values are trashed and children are left in confusion about who they are and what is the purpose of their lives.

Russia. Putin's disastrous war in Ukraine and western sanctions have caused a crash in the value of the Russian rouble, which is now worth 1 US cent. 40% of the nation's wealth is spent on the war while corruption in Russia's ruling class means almost everything in the country, including the war, is badly run. People in Russia's poorer areas are living with crumbling housing and infrastructure and shortages of food and money. The value of Russia's main source of income, oil and gas, has crashed meaning its big companies like Gazprom, are now operating at a loss. Russia has more or less become a client state of China, which is providing it with most of its needs in terms of technology and industry.

China. China's remarkable development in the 21st century has seen it go from being a badly run Communist dictatorship under Mao to becoming the engine of world trade. As a result it has become the second most powerful economy in the world. However all is not well with China either. The Covid pandemic and lockdowns caused a big hit on China's industrial production and a series of damaging investments in the property market have resulted in billions in debt, leaving Chinese citizens with big losses in their savings. The collapse of

these companies and similar defaults on the part of other property developers and individuals threaten to spill over into the wider economy. China also has problems feeding its huge population, with a particular problem of water supply in its northern regions where millions live. If China falls into the grip of a deflationary spiral similar to what the world experienced during the Great Depression, the rest of the world will find it nearly impossible to avoid the same fate.

World hunger and climate crisis

We have a massive increase in world hunger with 309 million people facing starvation in 72 countries. Conflict remains the primary driver of acute food insecurity, affecting 135 million people in 20 countries. Extreme weather events are affecting 77 million people, as more and more countries experience severe flooding, storms, droughts, wildfires and pest and disease outbreaks, all contributors to food crises.

War and Peace

Jesus said that in the last days there will be '**wars and rumours of wars ... 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 24.6-7. In the Book of Revelation we read of the four horsemen of the apocalypse, the second of which is the rider on the red horse: **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 6.4

There are dangerous flashpoints in Ukraine / Russia, China / Taiwan and the Middle East (for more on this see the following article). The Ukraine War has bought Russia into conflict with NATO, since Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022. Putin wants to restore Ukraine to Russian control, as it was in the days of the Soviet Union. Ukraine wants to join NATO and the EU, which Russia sees as a threat to its sovereignty.

The latest news is that the US has given the Ukrainians permission to use the advanced missiles the west has sent them to strike inside Russian territory. In response Russian President Putin issued one of his more dire warnings yet of a potential Russian attack on European cities. Nuclear drills have taken place in Russia in case of a responding attack from the west. There are rumours that Putin has built himself a giant nuclear bunker in Siberia in case this happens. There are talks of peace, but at present the sides are too far apart for any progress to be made on this front.

Another flashpoint is China's plan to take over Taiwan, which would bring it into conflict with the US which is committed to Taiwan's protection. China feels itself threatened by The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, commonly known as the Quad. This is a strategic security dialogue between Australia, India, Japan and the USA created to counter Chinese influence in South East Asia. There are regular clashes in the South China Sea between these forces. If a conflict began over Taiwan it could become nuclear. There are factors restraining China from

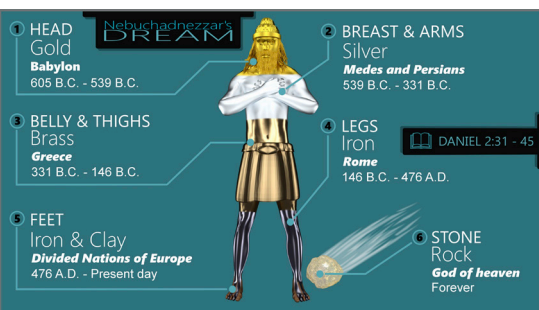
invading Taiwan, but its forces are still making threatening manoeuvres and its government talks openly of bringing Taiwan into the one party state of Communist China.

Conflict over Taiwan could have a drastic effect on the world economic system because roughly 90 percent of the world's most advanced computer chips are made there. These are used to power everything from cars to supercomputers and are a vital factor in keeping the world system running. This whole system, based on hi-tech computer systems and the World Wide Web of the Internet, is vulnerable to cyber-attacks, capable of closing them down with the flick of a switch coming from a hostile power. To say nothing of the danger of Artificial Intelligence (AI) making way for the machines to take over and close down the human race.

So will all these conflicts and economic struggles lead to the collapse of the world system or will it all come together for a while and then collapse at the time of the second coming? Are there clues to this in ancient prophecies given in the Bible?

The Iron and the Clay

In 586BC the Jewish people were taken into captivity in Babylon after the fall of Jerusalem. There the prophet Daniel rose to a prominent position in the court of King Nebuchadnezzar. The king had a dream which he could not remember the details of but he knew it was important so he asked his wise men to tell him the dream and its meaning. They could not, but Daniel was able to do this as God revealed it to him:



“You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendour was excellent, stood before you; and its form was awesome. This image’s head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.” Daniel 2.31-45.

This dream contains revelation from God about the empires that would follow the Babylonian Empire. The head of gold is Babylon, the chest and arms of silver are Medo-Persia, the belly and thighs of bronze are Greece, the legs of iron are Rome. These four empires followed each other and each had some kind of dominion over the Jewish people and the land of Israel.

These four empires belong to ancient history, but there is an implication that

the spirit behind them, which came out of Babylon, will continue in some form until it reaches its final stage represented by the feet partly of iron and partly of clay. The stone which smites the image is the Second Coming of Jesus the Messiah, when He will destroy the Babylon world system and set up the visible kingdom of God on earth. For more on this go to our article ‘Will God indeed rule on the earth?’ on page 15 of this magazine.

The legs of iron and the feet of iron and the clay are relevant to our study here. In the interpretation of the dream it says ‘the kingdom shall be divided; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay. And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile. As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay’

The legs of iron represent the Roman Empire which ruled over much of the known world, including Judea and Jerusalem, at the time of Messiah’s first appearance. The two legs of the image are significant because in its later stage the Roman Empire was divided, east and west with centres of power in Rome and Constantinople (modern Istanbul). This east west division persisted after the fall of the western Roman Empire in 476, as two forms of Christianity emerged, Roman Catholicism based in Rome in the west and Eastern Orthodoxy based in Constantinople in the east. The Byzantine Empire in the east ruled over Jerusalem

and that region until the Muslim conquest in 638. Finally the Muslim Turks took Constantinople renaming it Istanbul in 1453, thus completing the Islamisation of the former Byzantine Empire.

Both of these church systems departed from the original form of Christianity which was taught by the Apostles of Jesus in the first century. They became apostate churches which often persecuted genuine Christians and the Jewish people. They suppressed the message of the Bible until the Reformation began in 1517. Islam also became a major world religion, confronting Christianity and rejecting a number of core teachings of the Bible. For details on this send for our booklet 'Koran and the Bible – which has the word of God?'

The historic east west split has persisted in some form through history. In the post World War 2 period Europe was divided by Communism in the east and a form of democracy in the west separated by the Iron Curtain which ran through Europe.

After the fall of Communism in 1989, the countries of eastern Europe from Poland down to Bulgaria changed sides and went from being part of Russia's sphere of influence to becoming part of the western union in the EU and NATO. When the Soviet Union fell in 1991, the Baltic States also broke free from Moscow and joined the EU. For a while there was a possibility that Russia too would join the western union, with even talk of NATO membership on the agenda.

Vladimir Putin has changed all that now and the division between east and west

is back in place, as Russia and the West confront each other over the war in Ukraine. Putin wants to revive the former power of the Soviet Union and create a multi polar world to oppose the unipolar world of western power. Again we have the east west split represented by the two legs of the image of Daniel 2.

The iron and the clay. In Daniel 2.41-43 we read that the iron and the clay are 'partly strong and partly fragile' composed of elements that do not 'adhere to one another but they mingle with seed of men.' This could be a picture of this east west division, the iron representing the controlled societies of Russia and China and the clay the democracies of the west. Both of these are 'partly strong and partly fragile', both are increasingly antichristian and in danger of imploding when crisis in the form of economic collapse or war hits them. The iron and the clay don't hold together but they have been forced together in the same global economic system. In the current world situation there is a danger they could fall apart and destroy each other.

So is there anyone there offering us 'peace and safety'?

The UN has declared a state of 'planetary emergency' and has set up a conference in September 2024 to address this crisis, aiming to save the world from climate change, war and financial crisis. One aspect of its "Summit of the Future" will be proposals for 'A Global Digital Compact and reforms to the International Financial Architecture' (the world economic system).

Among the proposals are a new “apex body” in charge of the entire financial system that will “enhance its coherence and align its priorities with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.” According to Secretary-General António Guterres, this could be done through a twice yearly summit between the G20, the UN Economic and Social Council, and heads of international financial institutions. This will further integrate the G20 with the United Nations into a body that can be described as an economic Security Council. The G20 currently includes the US, UK, EU, Russia, China, Japan, Brazil, South Africa and Saudi Arabia. In other words, both parts of the US led western alliance and the BRICS alliance, including Russia and China.

A vital part of the agenda is ‘digital connectivity’ and the establishment of a Global Digital Compact, which will create a digitally connected network of people, entities, devices, and things, directed by those who run the system. This is also what the World Economic Forum prescribed in their report ‘Unlocking Technologies for the Global Goals in 2020.’ A Digital ID is a cornerstone in this work and is seen among other things as a way to reduce poverty. The digital ID system is already in place in the two most populous nations on earth, China, with its Credit Score system, and in India with its Aadhaar card.

The risk is that this will develop into a dictatorial form of government that will use the social credit system

and Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) to undermine human rights by controlling the money supply and people’s ability to use it. This is already happening in China. When fully operational it can be programmed to make you obey instructions from the Masters that run the show in order to receive your daily bread. The people in power could declare a “Planetary Emergency” as happened during the pandemic. They then take away our freedoms in order to save the world from disaster. In this case the iron and the clay come together and bring in the final world dictatorship.

The ten kings

There are ten toes on the feet of the image in Daniel 2, and ten horns on the beast of Daniel 7 and Revelation 13. In Revelation 17 we have ten kings who give their power to the beast:

“The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast. These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast. These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful.”
Revelation 17.3-14.

So who are the ten kings? There have been numerous answers to this question, including an early church view that the Roman Empire would fall, divide into ten kingdoms and out of that the Antichrist would arise to be followed by the return of Jesus Christ. In recent

times the Club of Rome, a globalist organisation, divided the world into ten regions out of which it hoped a world government would emerge. Whoever the ten kings turn out to be the text implies that there will be some kind of coming together of global powers in the last days with the aim of saving the world from impending disaster. Then ten leading figures or nations come together to propose a solution and hand their power to the beast or Antichrist.

Behind all this we see the 'Babylon' spirit that ruled the ancient empires referred to earlier in this article. The ultimate controlling power is the one Jesus described as the ruler of the present world darkness, the devil (John 12.31). In Revelation 13 we read how the Antichrist will be given power by the devil and take control of the world system. He ascribes to himself godlike status and demands to be worshipped, persecuting any opposition. He also sets up a new economic system in which you cannot buy and sell without the Mark 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

This could come about by some kind of digital ID system being implanted beneath the skin which is required to enter into the world trading system.

It is already in existence in embryo in China's Credit Score system, which the globalists consider to be a good model to follow. With its Agenda 30 programme, the UN wants something along these lines in place by 2030, an interesting date, because it is about 2000 years after the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus.

Second Coming Connection

All of this is scheduled to come in the days before the return of Jesus Christ to the earth, during the seven year period of the Great Tribulation. In Daniel chapter 7 the prophet has a vision of things to come. In this chapter we have a series of beasts, the lion, the bear, the leopard and the fourth beast 'dreadful and terrible.' These represent the same series of empires as we had in chapter 2, Babylon, Persia, Greece and Rome. The fourth beast (Rome) has ten horns and out of these ten horns there emerges *'another horn, a little one, coming up among them ... in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words.'* Daniel 7.8.

The little horn is the antichrist or beast of Revelation, who arises at the time of the end, as the enemy of God and embodiment of Satan in the final Great Tribulation period on earth. He is described in Revelation 13.1-4:

'They worshiped the dragon (the devil) who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?" And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months.'

He will be given power by the devil (Revelation 13.4), and 'persecute the saints' (Daniel 7.25, Revelation 13.7) and 'speak words against the Most High God' (Daniel 7.25, Revelation 13.5). He will rise to power at the beginning of the seven year Great Tribulation period and reach the height of his power at the midpoint of this time, after 42 months or three and a half years (Revelation 13.5-7). In the end he will be cast into hell (the burning flame) at the second coming of Jesus the Messiah (Daniel 7.11, Revelation 19.20).

His power will come to an end with the second coming of Jesus Christ (Daniel 7.13-14, Matthew 24, Revelation 19): *'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 24.30.

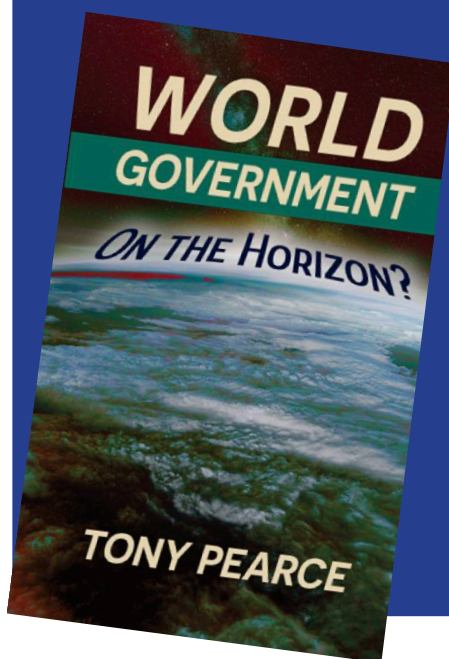
His kingdom will not pass away like the proud kingdoms of Babylon and Rome (Daniel 7.14), but will be an everlasting dominion for all peoples who serve the Lord. As a result of all this, these two things are going to happen.

1. A time of great turmoil is coming on the world which will change the nature of our present economic and political systems.
2. Messiah Jesus is coming back to sort out the mess humans have made of the world He gave us to look after. He will set up the kingdom which will not fall apart and which will bring peace and safety to all believers. (Isaiah 2.1-4, Revelation 19-20)

Make sure you have a place in the coming kingdom of God.

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They want to destroy Israel... God wants to save Israel



The modern city of Tel Aviv

Visitors to Israel can only be amazed at the transformation that has been brought to this once barren land since the establishment of the Jewish State in 1948. Modern cities, huge advances in technology, medicine and agriculture, causing the desert to blossom as a rose. Jews from around the world have been regathered to their ancient homeland as prophesied in the Bible. Israeli Arabs have full rights as citizens in the land and those who are happy to live in peace with the Jewish people have benefited from living in the only democracy in the Middle East. Visitors to Israel may also be shocked to find, as we did when we stayed in a hotel in Tel Aviv, that there are bomb shelters on hand in case the city comes under fire from missiles launched from Gaza, Lebanon or Iran.

There are many people out there who want to destroy Israel and the situation is getting more critical by the day.

On October 7th Hamas terrorists broke through into Israel, killing men, women and children, committing terrible acts of rape and cruelty and taking 251 hostages into Gaza. In response Israel took the war into Gaza with the aim of eliminating Hamas and returning the hostages. As a result casualties have mounted up in Gaza and sympathy for Israel after the initial attack has evaporated among the general population of the world. Israel is accused of genocide, censured by the UN and the International Criminal Court which has branded Israeli PM Netanyahu a war criminal.

We recognise and sympathise with the suffering of the people of Gaza. However responsibility for their plight lies with Hamas who started the war with its brutal attack on October 7th. Hamas has expressed its wish to carry on with such attacks, with help from Iran. Israel has a right to defend itself against those who wish to destroy it. Arab armies have repeatedly attempted to bring an end to Israel, in the 1948 War of Independence, the 1967 Six Day War and the 1973 Yom Kippur War. Each time Israel has fought back and ended up in a stronger position after defeating its enemies.

War plans

At the time of writing the Israeli army has retaken about 90 percent of Gaza's territory, including the so-called Philadelphia Corridor, the 12-kilometre-long border with Egypt, where they found over 40 tunnels connecting Gaza with Egypt. They have discovered an immense tunnel system, estimated at around 450 kilometres in length and used by Hamas as bases for their attacks on Israel, where they can store and produce missiles to be fired into Israel. Often located near or under schools, hospitals, mosques and housing, it means that Hamas is deliberately putting civilians at risk when Israel tries to close down this system.

Hamas makes no secret of its intention to destroy Israel. Hamas' founding charter says, "Israel will exist and will continue to exist until Islam will obliterate it, just as it obliterated others before it". Hamas is part of the network of Iranian proxies in the Middle East for whom this is their major reason for existing. Iran openly

calls for the end of the Jewish state and is equipping its proxies in the region to carry this out. Qassem Soleimani, commander of Iran's Revolutionary Guards, drew up a plan for the destruction of Israel before he was assassinated in 2020. Soleimani created "a ring of fire" around Israel, establishing multiple fronts, armed with rockets and missiles supplied to Iran's proxies in Lebanon, Iraq and Yemen. The plan was to unleash these missiles, overwhelm Israel's defences and invade from the north through Lebanon and Syria.

Note that many of the Iranian people want no part of this plan, resenting the way the Islamic regime spends vast sums of money propping up Arab terrorist groups while neglecting their own people's needs. There are continuing attempts by the people to rid themselves of the tyrannical Islamic regime, but they are crushed by its Revolutionary guards and fierce police repression. The late President Raisi, killed in a recent helicopter crash, is reported to have been responsible for around 30,000 executions of dissidents against the regime.

While Israel is fighting in Gaza, Hezbollah in Lebanon is carrying out daily attacks on the north of Israel, forcing around 200,000 Israelis to flee their homes and live in temporary accommodation further south. The IDF is currently mobilizing for a ground war against Hezbollah. If this erupts it could be much worse than the current war with Hamas. Hezbollah has around 150,000 missiles aimed at the whole of Israel. A major war between Israel and Hezbollah could bring great destruction to Israel and Lebanon.

Iran and Russia also have forces stationed in Syria where they are propping up Assad's regime. These could be brought into the fray if full scale war erupts in the north. Some rabbis and Christians have interpreted this as the first step towards the fulfilment of the Bible prophecy of Ezekiel 38-39, the War of Gog and Magog.

Meanwhile in western countries like the UK and USA mass demonstrations take place regularly bringing together Marxists, Islamists and liberal and left wing opponents of Israel. These are supposedly being held to support the Palestinians but they manifest a hatred of Israel and Jewish people with open support for Hamas terrorists and their Iranian backers. They chant 'From the River to the Sea, Palestine shall be free.' Whether they realise it or not they are calling for the destruction of Israel and a massacre of its Jewish population. Steve Maltz has written an excellent analysis of the anti-Semitic spirit behind this movement in his latest book 'Now Everything Changes' available from us for £10 plus p and p.

Peace plans

At the same time there are strenuous efforts to work for peace by creating the State of Palestine. In the words of UN: 'The only viable path towards a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East is through the two-State solution — with Israel and Palestine living side by side in peace and security, in line with international law, the Charter of the United Nations and relevant UN resolutions.' Now a number of countries have recognised the State of Palestine including, Ireland, Norway and Spain. The Saudis have put forward a peace plan which would bring recognition of Israel by the world's leading Sunni Muslim power in return for a viable Palestinian entity being set up. We featured this proposal in our October 2023 edition which is available on request.

Speaking for the Israeli government, Prime Minister Netanyahu said giving the Palestinians a state at this time would be a reward for the massacre of October 7th. He noted this massacre was supported by 80% of the Palestinians, both in the West Bank and in Gaza. It would also place Israel in great danger if the Palestinian Authority takes full control over the territory of Gaza and the West Bank.

The Palestinian Authority is ruled by Fatah, the political wing of the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation). The PLO was formed in 1964 with a charter that rejected Israel's right to exist, and called for 'the liberation of Palestine' in the whole area from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean (from the River to the Sea). At that time Jordan was in control of the West Bank and Egypt in control of



Gaza, so this really aimed at the removal of the Jewish state altogether. Under the leadership of Yasser Arafat, the PLO advocated armed struggle and terrorism to reach this goal.

In 1974, after the failure of the Arabs to defeat Israel in the Yom Kippur War, the PLO launched another way to reach its goal, the 10 Points Phased Plan. This aimed at creating a Palestinian entity on any territory that Israel withdrew from. The subtext of this was that this territory would then be used as a base from which to attack and eventually destroy Israel.

This opened the way for the diplomatic front to find its fulfilment in the Oslo Accords which Israel's PM Rabin signed with Arafat. Under the terms of the Oslo Accords, the Palestinian Authority and Israel recognised each other's right to govern specific areas of the country, meaning that the PA now in theory accepts Israel's right to exist. The result was the setting up of the Palestinian Authority, with Fatah (the political wing of the PLO) taking control of Arab areas in the West Bank and Gaza.

Until final status agreements are reached, Israel maintains overall security control of the area, including the Jewish settlements in the West Bank where around 500,000 now Israelis live. Many of these are in towns in areas of biblical significance like Kiryat Arba (Hebron) and Efrat near Bethlehem. Around 100,000 Israelis also live in disputed areas of Jerusalem. Israel has declared Jerusalem the undivided capital of Israel, making it a flashpoint of conflict with the Palestinians who want east Jerusalem as the capital of the future Palestinian State. Note the West Bank is the biblical area

of Judea and Samaria, the heartland of biblical Israel.



In 2005 Israel handed over complete control of Gaza to the Palestinian Authority and removed its Jewish settlements. Hamas then took over Gaza after a war with the PA in 2007. It has continued to rule Gaza up to now, using it as a base from which to attack Israel with weapons provided mainly by Iran and smuggled into Gaza via Egypt. Hamas never agreed to the terms of the Oslo Accords and does not accept Israel's right to exist. Its charter calls for the destruction of Israel and the establishment of an Islamic state from the Jordan to the Mediterranean. Hamas has growing influence in the West Bank and would probably win an election if one is held there. The PA also continues to support terrorism against Israel and educates its citizens to hate the Jewish state with the ultimate aim of destroying it.

According to the terms of the Oslo Accords, final status agreement can only come through a negotiated settlement between the government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority. Despite years of negotiations towards this end no one has ever been able to resolve the issue in a way which will satisfy Israel's desire for security and the Palestinians' desire for control over the whole of the West Bank, including the Old City of Jerusalem.

The Bible and the Peace Agreement

The prophecy of Zechariah 12 indicates that Jerusalem will be central to the resolution of this issue. **Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem. And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it.** Zechariah 12.2-3.

Remarkably the organisation representing 'all nations', the UN, has passed more resolutions on Israel and Jerusalem than any other in the world.

The prophecy of Joel 3 indicates that the Lord will enter into judgement with the nations that seek to divide up His land:

And I will enter into judgment with them there on account of My people, My heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations; they have also divided up My land. Joel 3.2

This passage in Daniel 9.27 speaks of a covenant being made at the end of days.

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.

The one who confirms this covenant is the coming Antichrist, who will bring in a seven-year treaty involving Israel and her neighbours (one week = seven years in the terms of Daniel 9.24-27). He will break this covenant half way through leading to the abomination of desolation standing in the holy place (the Temple Mount in Jerusalem). See Matthew 24.15-22. According to Daniel 9.27, this prophecy will be fulfilled in the days immediately before Jesus' return to the earth. It will start the seven-year Great Tribulation period at the same time as the four horsemen of the apocalypse ride out in Revelation chapter 6. In our view the rider on the white horse of Revelation 6.1-2 is not the Lord Jesus riding out with the Gospel, but the Antichrist riding out with a false peace programme.

This counterfeit Messiah, the first of the four horsemen of the apocalypse, rides forth on his white horse, "conquering and to conquer." He has a bow but no arrows, so his conquest will not be forged out of war but through a diplomatic conquest, leading to a peace agreement with Israel and her neighbours. That peace condition will be the precondition for the Gog Magog war that will occur later in the tribulation period.

There was an article published in Time magazine on April 11 called 'A Million Dollar Middle East Peace Plan', in which the author Kai Bird called for an imposed solution to the Middle East problem: "This conflict is so dangerous that the time has come for the international community to impose a solution. He proposes that the nations must "convene a Geneva peace conference" where all the essential parties will be forced to participate and "face financial and legal sanctions if they fail to show up. A conversation will take place in which all parties are heard, but the American, European, and other international diplomats invited to Geneva will be responsible for the actual drafting of a peace treaty. This will be an imposed peace because the global stakes are too high."

Prophecy author Brett Gillette comments on this: "That is precisely what Daniel 9.27 says, "He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.'" The idea of "confirming," literally in Hebrew, means to "make strong." He is going to make strong a covenant—or even "compel" a covenant. The Time Magazine article insists that "the international community" needs to "impose a solution." So, nations other than Israel and their enemies will develop this peace treaty draft. It will be brokered by outside forces, which is exactly what Daniel 9.27 predicts. The plan is to "impose peace" upon Israel and its neighbours. That's what the Bible predicts. It will be an imposed, compelled, or "take it or leave it" covenant that will be negotiated and brokered by the Antichrist, who will rise from Europe and a revived / reunited Roman Empire."

Signs of the coming again of the Messiah?

Most of the church today is dismissive of Bible prophecy having relevance to today's events and is indifferent or even hostile to Israel. However, a number of Christians do recognise the hand of God in these events, seeing the rebirth of the Jewish State of Israel as a fulfilment of Bible prophecy:

'For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. ... And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. Then you will live in the land I gave your ancestors; you will be my people, and I will be your God.' Ezekiel 36.24-28.

God's purpose is not just to bring Israel back to the land but also to bring them back to Himself, with a promise to give them a new heart and a new spirit. Jeremiah chapter 30 indicates this will come about as a result of a time of trouble. First there will be a restoration of Israel to the land of their fathers, a reference to the covenant God made with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Genesis 15, 17, 28). Then there will be a time of trouble after the many years of dispersion among the nations. Jeremiah describes this time of trouble which will follow the restoration of Israel:

We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace. Ask now, and see, whether a man is ever in labour with child? So why do I see every man with his hands on his loins like a woman in

labour, and all faces turned pale? Alas! For that day is great, so that none is like it; and it is the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it ... For I am with you,' says the Lord, 'to save you; though I make a full end of all nations where I have scattered you, yet I will not make a complete end of you. But I will correct you in justice, and will not let you go altogether unpunished.'

The text says Israel will be saved out of this time of trouble and turn to serve 'the Lord their God and David their king whom I will raise up for them.' David their king is a code word for Messiah ben David, the reigning king Messiah whose coming these events are preparing for. One of the things God says in preparation for this is 'I will correct you in justice.' God wants to correct the mistake which the Jewish people have made, historically, which concerns the identity of the Messiah. The Messiah who is coming has already been once before in the person of Yeshua, Jesus the Messiah, who came to fulfil the prophecy of the Suffering Servant Messiah in Isaiah 53:

'He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.'

The antisemitic church and rabbinic teaching have hidden this message from Jewish people down through the ages. The scriptures indicate that in the last days of this age there will be a growing

revelation of Yeshua, Jesus the Messiah to those Jews and Gentiles who seek God in spirit and truth. According to Zechariah 12.10 this revelation will be given to the people in Jerusalem:

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.

Jesus was pierced when He died as a sacrifice for the sin of the world. He rose from the dead to give forgiveness of sin and eternal life to all who turn to Him, Jewish and Gentile.

Those who do this will be part of His coming kingdom when He returns in power and glory to judge the world in righteousness and save Israel from the enemies and set up His kingdom from Jerusalem.

Before He departed Jesus spoke of the coming desolation of Jerusalem which happened in 70CE when the Romans destroyed the city after the Jewish revolt. He also said He would return to Jerusalem in the day when the Jewish people welcome Him with the traditional Hebrew greeting for the coming Messiah – Baruch ha ba be shem Adonai (Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord): 'See! Your house is left to you desolate; for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!'

On that day He will stand on the Mount of Olives on the east side of Jerusalem at a time of global conflict over Jerusalem:

'Behold, the day of the Lord is coming, and your spoil will be divided in your midst. For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem ... Then the Lord will go forth and fight against those nations, as He fights in the day of battle. And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east. ... Thus the Lord my God will come, and all the saints with You. ... And the Lord shall be King over all the earth. In that day it shall be— "The Lord is one," and His name one.' Zechariah 14.1-9.

Contrary to the modern Jewish idea of the Messiah as a great man who brings peace to the world and saves Israel, the Bible prophets indicate that the Messiah is a divine person, coming with all the power of God to set up His kingdom and bring peace and deliverance to Israel. The one who fulfils this is Jesus the Messiah who came first time to bring in the new covenant and restore our relationship to God as prophesied in the words of Jeremiah 31.31-34:

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 ... 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. No more shall every man teach his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.

When the same Messiah returns He will judge the world according to how we have responded to this new covenant. Now is the time to enter into it through repentance and faith in Yeshua, the Messiah who has come once, and who is coming again soon in power and great glory (Daniel 7.13-14, Matthew 24.29-31).

For more on the meaning of these prophecies for Judaism, Islam and Christianity go to our article Messiah and the Middle East in the April edition of this magazine, available on our website or in print from our office.

The Prophecies of the Messiah

The Bible is a unique book because it contains so many prophecies which have been fulfilled, as well as giving us information about the day to come. One of the reasons we believe the prophecies which have yet to be fulfilled will also be fulfilled, is the fact that so many prophecies have already been fulfilled. The prophecies are not just vague predictions of events to come, but very specific in their nature. The most important of these prophecies concern the life, death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ and His return to the earth in the future.

We mentioned here a number of the prophecies of the Messiah, also available on our website <http://www.lightfortheendtimes.co.uk>. This link the prophecies in the Hebrew Bible which have been fulfilled or will be fulfilled in the future. The prophecies are not just vague predictions of events to come, but very specific in their nature. The most important of these prophecies concern the life, death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ and His return to the earth in the future.

Prophecies about the Messiah already fulfilled

Messiah to be born in Bethlehem:
 Prophecy: "And as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to me the one to be Ruler in Israel, whose going forth is from of old, from everlasting."
 Micah 5.2 (N.T. in the Jewish Bible)

Fulfillment: "Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judah in the days of Herod the king ... and when he [Jesus] had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. So they said to him, 'In Bethlehem, for thus it is written by the prophet. But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are not the least among the rulers of Judah. For out of you shall come a Ruler who will shepherd the people Israel.'"
 Matthew 2.6, Luke 3.2-3

For more details go to <http://www.lightfortheendtimes.co.uk/the-birth-of-the-messiah>.

Messiah to be born of a virgin:
 Prophecy: "Therefore shall the Lord Himself call him a virgin: Behold the virgin shall conceive and bear a son and shall call His name Immanuel."
 Isaiah 7.14

Fulfillment: "Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah was as follows. After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found with child of the Holy Spirit ... An angel of the Lord appeared to her [Joseph] in a dream saying, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for in whom is conceived that which is of the Holy Spirit. And she shall bring forth a son and you shall call his name Jesus [Hebrew: Yehoshua, meaning salvation] for he will save the people from their sin. So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, 'Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel,' which is translated, 'God with us.'"
 Matthew 1.20-23

For answers to objections to the virginity of Joseph 2.1 as 'Virgin' and Jesus concerning the virgin birth go to our article <http://www.lightfortheendtimes.co.uk/virgin-birth>.

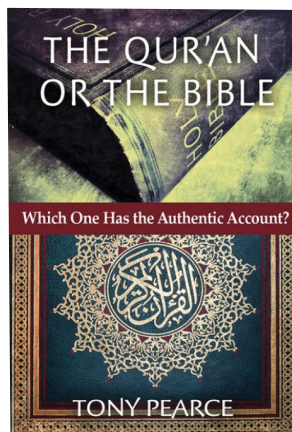
Messiah to be a Son who is also the Mighty God:
 Prophecy: "For unto us a child shall be born, unto us a son shall be given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder; and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."
 Isaiah 9.6

Fulfillment: "The Lord will come upon you [Merry] and the power of the Highest will overshadow you, therefore also that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God."
 Luke 1.35

For issues concerning the divinity of the Messiah go to our article <http://www.lightfortheendtimes.co.uk/messiah-a-god-or-a-divine-human>.

Messiah to preach the good news with a ministry of miracles:
 Prophecy: "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good tidings to the poor; he has sent me to bind the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them who are bound."
 Isaiah 61.1

Fulfillment: "Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the Kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people."
 Matthew 9.35, Luke 4.18-21



Will God indeed rule on the earth?



Live A Thousand Years And Beyond!

According to the literal interpretation of the Bible there will be a time when the Lord Jesus will reign on the earth for 1000 years after His Second Coming. This period is known as the Millennium or the Messianic Age. The word Millennium is taken from two Latin words, 'mille', meaning 1000 and 'annus', meaning year. The New Testament has one chapter dealing with this in Revelation 20.1-6:

'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. 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. But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.'

These verses teach that there will be a 1000 year period when Satan will be bound (unable to influence the world) and the Messiah Jesus will reign on the earth. This corresponds to a number of passages in the Hebrew Prophets telling of a time when the Messiah will sit on David's throne in Jerusalem and bring peace and justice to the earth. This period will be preceded by acts of judgement in which God will separate those who are redeemed and enter into the Messianic kingdom from those who are not.

Firstly the true believers will meet the Lord in the air before His physical return to the earth: 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. 1 Thessalonians 4.16-17. See also 1 Corinthians 15.51-54.

This event known as the rapture of the church will comprise those who have died prior to this event during the present church age (after the Day of Pentecost) and those who are alive at the time when it happens. Those who are alive will be supernaturally taken out of this world to meet the Lord as He comes. They will go into the Millennial kingdom in spiritual bodies. There is debate about when this happens - before, in the middle of or at the end of the seven year Great Tribulation, which precedes the Lord's return to the earth. I believe there are good reasons to believe the pre-tribulation view, which means it could happen any time now, but I also recognise that there are others who believe it will happen at a later date. Either way we need to be ready now, by accepting Jesus as Saviour and Lord.

Secondly those who died in faith during the Old Testament dispensation will be resurrected and go into the Millennium (also known as the Messianic Age).

'And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.' Daniel 12.2. See also Isaiah 26.19-21.

Thirdly those, who were not believers at the time of the rapture but became believers during the Great Tribulation, will be resurrected after the Lord

returns to the earth and live on earth during the Millennium. See Revelation 20.4-6. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

All of these will be part of the 'first resurrection' and will enter the Millennium in spiritual bodies before going to be with the Lord in the eternal state in heaven. Revelation 20.6 says: Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection

There will also be those who survive the tribulation as believers, who will enter the Millennial kingdom with earthly bodies. After Jesus returns, He will gather all survivors of the tribulation and divide them into the sheep and the goats. The sheep are the righteous who enter the kingdom, the goats are the unrighteous who are cast out:

"When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.'
Matthew 25.31-33

There is a separate judgement for the remaining Jews on earth described in Ezekiel 20.33-44, when the Lord will separate those who enter the restored land of Israel as believers in the Lord (Ezekiel 20.42) from those rebels against the Lord who do not enter the land (verse 38). The millennial kingdom will see the nation of Israel exalted to its fullest glory. All who enter it will

be restored spiritually and physically: 'And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; For this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins." Romans 11.26-7. Only saved or redeemed people, Jewish or Gentile, will enter the millennial kingdom.

So, those who enter the millennial kingdom will be the righteous of all previous ages or dispensations. At this time the knowledge of the Lord will be universal: "The earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea" Habakkuk 2.14.

Conditions on earth

A number of passages in the Hebrew prophets describe conditions on the earth at this time. All international conflicts will cease and there will be world peace in which even the animal kingdom will be at peace with itself. There will be abundance of food and the earth will be cleansed from the pollutions of the present era. There will be significant changes in the geography and environmental conditions on earth. The Messiah's dominion will reach to the ends of the earth and all nations will come up to worship Him and learn from Him at the rebuilt Temple in Jerusalem. Israel will be regathered and at last know peace and safety as Jewish people recognise Yeshua (Jesus) as the promised Messiah. For Bible references describing this period go to Psalm 72, Isaiah 2.1-4, Isaiah 11, Isaiah 35, Ezekiel 40-48, Zechariah 14, amongst many others. The most well known verses on this are Isaiah 2.1-4:

Now it shall come to pass in the latter days

that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills: and all nations shall flow to it. 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.'

It will be standard practice for those alive in the millennial kingdom to travel to Jerusalem and worship the Lord in person: (Isaiah 2, Micah 4, Zechariah 14). During this time, the saints in earthly, natural bodies will enjoy long lives (Isaiah 65) and they will produce children (Isaiah 11.6-8, 65.20, Zechariah 8.4-5).

Children will be born to those surviving the tribulation in the normal way of child birth. They will need to exercise faith in the Lord, as have people in past ages. Most will do so, living in times of such blessing and peace under the rule of the Messiah. But some will rebel and not believe. The scripture speaks of those who die under a curse (Isaiah 65.20) because of their disobedience to the Lord. The Lord lays out consequences for nations that do not worship Him: "If any of the peoples of the earth do not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord Almighty, they will have no rain" (Zechariah 14.17).

By the end of the thousand years, the world will be fully populated, but sadly there will be many among them who rebel against the Lord when Satan is loosed at the end of the Millennial period. According to Revelation 20 Satan will be released from the abyss where he is confined during the 1000 year reign of Christ, and then lead his last, futile rebellion against God, which the Lord Jesus will instantly put down. This will cause the end of the world, the dissolution of the present universe and the establishment of the new heavens and new earth where true believers will dwell forever with the Lord (2 Peter 3, Revelation 21-22).

Different interpretations of this

Should these passages be taken literally as events which will take place on earth? Or are they allegorical of the life of the church on the earth now? Or are they speaking of the future life in heaven?

The main views on this subject are known as 'pre-millennialism', 'a-millennialism' and 'post-millennialism'. 'Pre-millennialism' means that Jesus comes back 'pre' (before) the Millennium, in other words the Millennial passages describe conditions after His return. 'Post-millennialism' means He comes back 'post' (after) the Millennium, so the millennial passages describe the kingdom being established on earth before Jesus returns. 'A-millennialism' means there is no millennium, because the Second Coming of Jesus brings about the end of the world, with no reign of the Messiah on earth.

The pre-millennial view is the one which we hold in this magazine. This means that these Bible passages are to be interpreted literally and will be fulfilled when Jesus comes back in person to the earth at the end of the Great Tribulation. He will then establish His reign as Messiah and Lord for 1000 years, showing how the world should be run under God's authority.

This view was the expectation of many in the early church, as is testified by a number of sources. In his writing 'Dialogue with Trypho', Justin Martyr, who lived from approximately 100 to 165 AD, stated, 'But I and others, who are right minded Christians on all points, are assured that there will be a resurrection of the dead, and a thousand years in Jerusalem, which will then be adorned, and enlarged as the prophets Ezekiel and Isaiah and others declare. ... And further there was a certain man with us, whose name was John, one of the apostles of Christ, who prophesied, by a revelation that was made to him, that those who believed in our Christ would dwell one thousand years in Jerusalem; and that thereafter the general and in short the eternal resurrection and judgement of all men would take place.' Justin's use of the phrase 'right minded Christians on all points' indicates that this view of the Millennium was the prevailing one in his day. He also gives as his authority the Apostle John who was 'with us' (known to him). Edward Gibbon (1737-1794), author of 'The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire', wrote about the premillennial view in the early church: Though it might not

be universally received, it appears to have been the reigning sentiment of the orthodox believers.'

A-millennialism. In the third century of the Christian era the Greek theologian Origen adopted an allegorical method of interpreting the scriptures. He taught that instead of speaking about a time when Jesus would literally rule the earth from Jerusalem and swords be beaten into ploughshares, the prophecies indicate a spiritual kingdom in which Jesus would reign from heaven in the hearts of believers and there would be peace in their relationships with each other. One of Origen's disciples, called Dionysius, went so far in opposing the idea of a literal reign of Messiah on earth that he influenced the Greek Church to remove the Book of Revelation from the Greek New Testament. It was not restored until the late Middle Ages.

The major influence on the Roman church, Augustine, also rejected the idea of a literal reign of the Messiah on the earth. In his book 'City of God' he wrote that the abyss into which Satan is cast in Revelation 20.1-3 is not a literal location. Instead he said, 'By the abyss is meant the countless multitude of the wicked whose hearts are unfathomably deep in malignity against the Church of God.' He said that the binding of Satan in the abyss 'means his being unable to seduce the church', in other words the church would be triumphant over evil in this age.

Unfortunately far from being 'unable to seduce the church', by the Middle Ages, Satan was more or less running the show, with the true Gospel

suppressed and real Christians ruthlessly persecuted, along with Jews and others who stood in the way of the Roman Catholic Church. In this scheme of interpretation the passages in the prophets about Israel's restoration and central role in the Millennial kingdom were changed to the Church ruling now in this age. This became known as 'replacement theology', in other words the Church has replaced Israel and God has no further purpose for the Jewish people. Most of the Protestant Reformers took this view also.

According to A-millennialism, the second coming is the end of the world after which saved persons go to heaven and unsaved go the hell. Therefore there is no time when Jesus will reign in person on the earth.

'Post millennialism' means that the second coming happens after (post) the church has succeeded in establishing the kingdom on the earth through a great revival which, it is claimed, will convert all the nations to Christianity. In the closing years of the 20th century a growing number of Christian leaders began to challenge pre-millennial teaching, saying it is negative and lacking in faith. Instead of trouble and Antichrist coming, God is going to send a great revival with signs and wonders happening on such a scale that whole cities and nations will be converted to Christianity before the second coming. Jesus will then return to wrap up this age and bring in the eternal state in the new heavens and new earth.

Revivalist preacher Ern Baxter said, "God's people are going to start to exercise rule, and they're going to

take dominion over the Power of Satan.” By taking authority over the powers of darkness, they will take over parliaments of the nations, change legislation and ‘chase the devil off the face of God’s earth, doing the will of God, will bring about God’s purposes and God’s reign.’ This idea began to take hold in many charismatic and Pentecostal churches. Dave Mansell wrote in Restoration Magazine, January 1991: ‘A new order is emerging in purity and power - the kingdom of God. The people of God, united in love and submission to Jesus Christ, will fill the earth as they take the kingdom and as all nations are brought beneath the feet of King Jesus.’

Today this idea finds its expression in the ‘New Apostolic Reformation’ centred on Bethel Church, Redding, California. Bethel Church leader, Bill Johnson, teaches a “7 mountain mandate” where each mountain represents a kingdom, or an aspect of our society, that they need to take dominion over. These seven “mountains” are: 1) Education, 2) Religion, 3) Family, 4) Business, 5) Government / Military, 6) Arts / Entertainment, 7) Media. They talk about “occupying” the mountains, “invading” the culture, and “transforming” or “taking back” society. In other words people who follow their beliefs and practice should aim to control these seven pillars of our society.

They will take control of society by bringing healing, eradicating poverty, reforming society, and undoing the

works of the devil. There is a great emphasis on divine healing with claims of miracles abounding and promises of health and wealth to all those who follow their teaching. Unbelievers will be so impressed with their works of power that they will believe in Jesus and so the world will be won and Christianity will dominate in a New Christian World Order.

Sadly from our experience the claims of miracles often turn out to be exaggerated or untrue. The Bible teaches that in the last days ‘evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived’ (2 Timothy 3.13) and there will be a great falling away from biblical Christianity, bringing judgement on the world. While we agree that Christians should seek to influence society through the Gospel as we are able, the evidence is that true believers are being pushed out of positions of influence in the world, as antichrist forces take over its institutions, including much of the professing church. (Matthew 24, 2 Thessalonians 2, 2 Timothy 3, Revelation 6-19). Jesus taught in Matthew 13.24-43 that good and evil will coexist until the end of this age. According to Revelation 13 the second coming to the earth will be preceded by people following Antichrist not Jesus Christ.

Whatever happens God will have the final victory. He will save all those who truly repent and believe the Gospel, and keep them for eternal life in His kingdom. God will not let Satan have the last word in the affairs of this planet by making the reign of Antichrist and the Great Tribulation the end of the world. Rather He will show

how wonderful life on this planet can be when God, not Satan and sinful humanity, are in control.

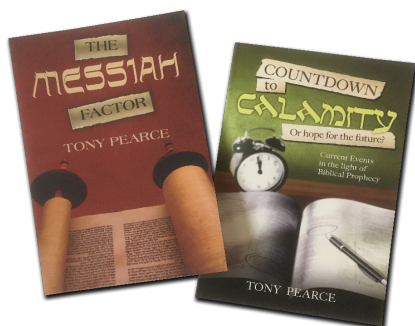
This prelude to the eternal state (Revelation 21-22) is something to look forward to as the days of this age become darker and the forces of evil become stronger. The choice for the human race is whether to join Satan and the Antichrist, who are heading for eternal doom in hell, or to get on the winning side and believe in Jesus the Messiah who is coming again in triumph to give eternal and glorious life to all who turn to Him now in repentance and faith. 'As it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." 1 Corinthians 2.9.

At the end of the 1000 year reign of the Messiah the present earth and universe will be burned up:

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. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. 2 Peter 3.10-13.

Then all believers will enjoy eternal life in God's kingdom.

Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. 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.



Signs of the Times



Is the Pope a Christian?

In our October 2023 edition we carried an article asking the question 'Is the Pope a Catholic?' This was based on claims from within the Catholic Church that Pope Francis' liberal teaching is promoting heresy and apostasy in the church, giving rise to 'one of the worst crises in the history of the Catholic Church.' It is claimed that the papal document "Amoris Laetitia" (The Joy of Love), undermines traditional teaching on the sanctity of marriage and does not condemn abortion strongly enough and leans towards the acceptance of LGBT ideology.

There has also been criticism of the Pope for making climate change a priority issue over teaching Church doctrine. On this issue it is interesting that the Pope has called for a global government to be set up to deal with this issue and other related ones. In his 2015 encyclical Pope Francis complained that international negotiations on climate change were not making enough progress and called for the nations of the world to set up 'global regulatory norms to impose obligations and prevent unacceptable actions. ... There is urgent need of a true world political authority, one authoritative source of oversight and co-ordination, which lays down rules for admissible conduct in the light of the common good.' In other words we need a one world political system with rules that nations must submit to in

order to save the world. That sounds a bit like the antichrist agenda.

Now the Pope has launched another theological grenade at biblical Christianity by stating that human beings are fundamentally good. Speaking in an interview with the US '60 Minutes' programme he told the presenter Norah O' Donnell: "We are all fundamentally good. Yes, there are some rogues and sinners, but the heart itself is good." I don't know what Bible the Pope is reading but mine says, 'The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?' Jeremiah 17.9.

Jesus said, 'Those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. These are the things which defile a man.' Matthew 15.18-20.

The Bible teaches that all humans have a sinful nature and that only through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ can we be delivered from this. Paul wrote: '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, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith.' Romans 3.23-4.

If we are basically good then there was no need for Jesus to shed His blood on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins. In this case, the resurrection, through which He conquered sin and death and the devil, has no meaning either. So there is no need for the church to preach the Gospel that Christ died for our sins, was buried and rose again from the dead. So we may as well close down Christian churches that preach this message.

Actually the Pope has said there should be no 'proselytism' in the church. By this he means trying to persuade someone who is not a Christian to become one, in other words what we call evangelism, telling others the good news about Jesus. He says we should not use 'doctrinal convictions' (in other words Bible teaching) to convince non believers that they are lost in sin and need to be saved. According to the Pope what we have to do is to encourage people to have an encounter with Jesus, but how we do that remains a mystery. Clearly not by repenting of our sins and believing the Gospel.

So is the Pope a Christian? As head of the largest denomination of the religion known as Christianity, I guess we would have to say he is. But as a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ, definitely not.

Jesus did not tell the disciples to make Christians of all nations. The word Christian only appears three times in the New Testament, twice used by unbelievers. Jesus said, 'Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the name

of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.' Matthew 28:19. The word disciple is used 271 times in the New Testament and is used 30 times in the Book of Acts to describe followers of Jesus. When we come to faith, we enter into a relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ in which we become His disciples. A disciple is someone who learns, so our purpose is to learn from God, His Word (Jesus Christ) and the Holy Spirit how to live our new life in Jesus.

At the most basic level that means turning away from practices the Bible says are sinful, because Jesus came to save us from our sins. So the true church cannot bless homosexual couples as mainstream churches are doing now. The problem with these churches is that they are led by people who may have the label of being Christian, but they are clearly not disciples. The basic principle of discipleship is summed up by Paul who wrote to his disciple Timothy:

'You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.' 2 Timothy 2:1-3.

Eurovision Sin Contest

The Eurovision's Song Contest's slogan 'United by Music' did not live up to its name. It was tarnished by discord as protesters called for Israel to be excluded

from the contest because of the war in Gaza. Israeli singer, Eden Golan, faced boos and abuse from the pro Hamas crowd, which was joined by climate protester Greta Thunberg. Eden was told to stay in her hotel room for her own safety when not on stage. Her song was a tribute to Israeli victims of Hamas' terrorist slaughter on October 7th.

In the end Israel came fifth in the final vote. It did not do well with the televised vote where national juries only gave it 52 votes in total. It did very well in the popular vote when individuals sent in their preferences, coming second to Croatia, with the maximum 12 points being awarded by UK voters and by voters in Australia, France, Germany, Holland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Italy, Belgium, Luxembourg and San Marino.

By contrast the UK entry was the only one to receive the dreaded 'nul points' / 'no points' in the popular vote, a fitting result for what was probably the worst entry in the programme. It featured five men cavorting around in what looked like a dirty shower room to a tuneless celebration of homosexuality. This performance brought shame on our nation that once brought Christianity and the Gospel to the world. Ireland's contribution was as bad, with a lesbian self-styled witch who calls herself Bambi Thug (actually not 'herself' she wants to be known by the pronouns they, them, their etc). She / they had previously abused the Israeli entry and then came on stage dancing and engaging in sexual poses with a man who looked like the devil. No protests against this, as the crowd cheered her on.

With one or two exceptions (notably the French and Israeli entries) most of the songs were celebrations of depravity in some form, many featuring half naked women and men dancing around in sexual poses. The winner was Switzerland's Nemo, a man wearing a dress, and singing a song called 'The Code.' Nemo defines himself / themself as a 'non binary' musician, who uses they / them pronouns, and advocates the extension of LGBTQI rights in Switzerland. The Code song says 'This is the story of my truth' and says he went to hell and back to get this truth and now he's found 'paradise and my kingdom come.'

So he went to hell and back to get 'my truth' and 'my kingdom' and now he thinks he's in paradise! This is the strong delusion of our time in which God's absolute truth is rejected and replaced with a relative truth which really does come from hell and will in the end exclude all who follow this way from the true paradise. The devil's lie indeed.

Much of the programme was like a trip to Sodom with the words of Isaiah 3.9 an apt description of the proceedings. **'The look on their countenance witnesses against them, and they declare their sin as Sodom; they do not hide it. Woe to their soul! For they have brought evil upon themselves.'**

Europe, with its rich history of culture, art, folk and classical music, much of it influenced by Christianity, is throwing all this away and provoking God to send on our continent the

judgement that fell on Sodom and Gomorrah in Genesis 19. '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. Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.' Luke 17.28-30.

Northern Lights – Coming Darkness?

Skies above Britain lit up with stunning dancing colours of the Northern Lights on May 12. The aurora borealis, usually only visible in the far north of the country, dazzled people as far south as Cornwall and the Isle of Wight. The magnificent technicolour displays were caused by a geomagnetic storm interacting with the earth's magnetic shield, as the sun bombarded the earth with highly charged particles. The same phenomenon was observed in North America with aurora visible as far south as Arizona, Puerto Rico and Mexico.

Ben Davidson writes a magazine called the Observer Review that discusses the main scientific findings surrounding space weather. In a video on the subject 'Space Weather News' he says these phenomena may not be good news for humanity. The May 12 event was caused by solar activity, flares emitted by the sun. These flares known as Coronal Mass Ejection (CMEs) have been increasing in number recently as the sun behaves more erratically. At the same time, the earth's magnetic shield, which protects

us from harmful rays of the sun, has become weaker.

On May 12 the flares that hit our atmosphere were not particularly strong. In 1859 there was a massive solar flare, known as the Carrington Event, that spewed electrified gas and subatomic particles towards the earth wreaking havoc on telegraph networks. If a solar flare of this strength had hit earth on May 12 it could have caused major disruption, even catastrophe. On May 14 the sun did unleash a monstrous X8.7 solar flare, the largest one of this entire solar cycle. Fortunately this one was not directed at earth, but if a solar flare of this strength had hit the earth on May 12 the consequences could have ranged from some disruption to global catastrophe.

A major solar flare, combined with the weakening of the protection given by the earth's magnetic field, could significantly disrupt technology usage, knocking out electricity, satellites, smartphones, GPS systems and other devices that rely on the magnetic field for navigation and orientation. We could see the collapse of the Internet and communication systems which have become vital for the running of the modern world.

Some of the calamities prophesied for the Great Tribulation may be connected to such events. Jesus said "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. Luke 21.

In Revelation 8.7 we read: 'The first angel sounded: And hail and fire followed, mingled with blood, and they were thrown to the earth. And a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.'

This may describe what would happen if a major solar flare hit the earth. First its heat would burn a hole in the earth's stratosphere exposing it to the intense cold of space. This would compress ice crystals into hail balls which would then fall to earth. This would be followed by the intense heat of the flare burning up trees and grass and everything in its path.

So what can we do to be saved?

Most people try not to think about the things we have written about here (and congratulations if you have stuck with us this far). People hope that something will turn up and all will be well in the future. But suppose it doesn't.

Think of the Titanic, the ship they said even God could not sink. The Titanic film has a scene where the crew see the iceberg ahead and realise that they are heading for it. They try to reverse the engines, change course, but it's too late. The momentum of the ship means they can't avoid hitting the iceberg. Then the water floods

in and the captain announces, 'This ship is going to sink.' All the passengers could do was try to get off the sinking ship onto the lifeboats. This was not so easy because mostly the rich got on the boats and the poor were left to drown. They said that even God could not sink this ship, but it sank less than three hours after hitting the iceberg.

The world system is like a ship of fools that is on a collision course with a malevolent destiny that's going to sink it. With 101 different crises bearing down on us it's already too late to change direction. The world has thrown out God, the Bible and His commands and the one way of salvation given us in Jesus Christ. We're heading for the time of the great tribulation prophesied by Jesus for the last days before His return, and for the judgement of God that awaits all those who reject the Lord.

We need to get onto the lifeboat of salvation which God has prepared for us in Jesus

Christ who died for our sins and rose again from the dead, to give eternal salvation and life to all believers. Unlike the lifeboats on the Titanic, there is room for every one who calls on the Lord to get onto the lifeboat of eternal salvation in Jesus.

The alternative is to stay on the sinking ship and face eternal separation from God in hell.

So what is to be done?

1. Believe that God exists and loves us and has a purpose for our lives.

John 3.16

2. Recognise that we are all sinners

who fall short of what God wants for us and break His commandments.

Romans 3.23-24

3. Repent (turn from, be sorry for, forsake) our sins and ask God to forgive us for the things we have done wrong. Acts 2.38, Acts 17.30-31

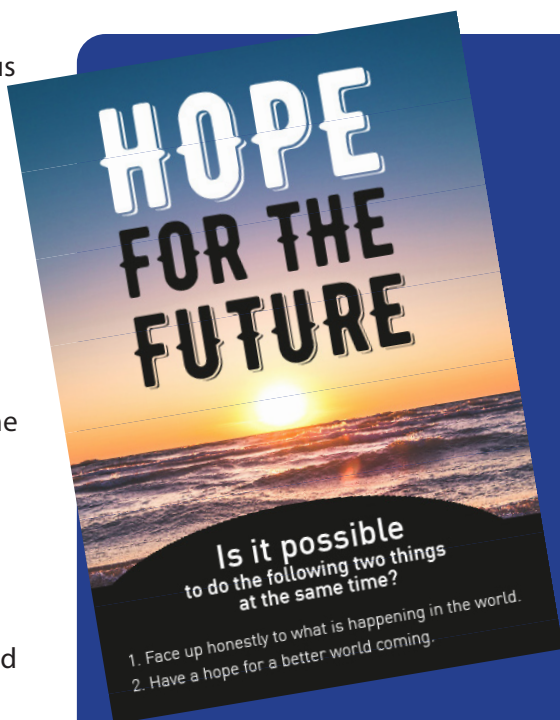
4. Believe that the Lord Jesus

Christ (Yeshua the Messiah) died as a sacrifice for our sins, taking the punishment that we deserve in His own person on the cross. On the third day He rose again to give eternal life to all who call upon His name.

1 Corinthians 15.3-4

5. Receive Jesus Christ into our lives by faith, asking Him to give us the Holy Spirit and come and live within us and guide us into the truth of God's Word (the Bible). John 1.12, John 14.16-18, Revelation 3.20, Ephesians 2.4-8

If you have done this, begin to pray and read the Bible daily asking God to show you its meaning, and join up with other believers in the true church of Jesus Christ. If you would like us to help you with this contact us at this address. If you don't have a Bible we can send you one. Turn over for a prayer that you can pray to accept Jesus Christ as your Saviour.



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Conclusion



All the things that we write about 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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