LIGHT FOR THE LAST DAYS

BOX BM - 4226 London WC1N 3XX

Winter 2025-26

WARNING
DANGER AHEAD!

BUT YOU CAN FIND SAFETY
IF YOU FOLLOW THESE STEPS.



WARNING
Danger Ahead!



The state of the world is going from bad to worse. In the last few years we have seen a global health crisis, extreme weather events and an increase in wars and conflict. There are warnings of shortages of food, energy and money. Drought and floods are ruining many countries in the world. Economists are talking of an impending crisis that could shake the global financial system, as major world economies build up debts they can't pay. UN Secretary General Guterres said 'These crises threaten the very future of humanity and the fate of our planet. And yet we are gridlocked in colossal global dysfunction.'

These crises line up with the prophecies in the Bible. Bible prophecies warn us that there will be a time of great trouble on the earth at the end of this age. This time will reach its climax in the period known as the Great Tribulation, which will take place before the Second Coming of Jesus Christ to the earth. If God did not cut short these days no human life would be saved (Matthew 24.21-22). These are some of things that are prophesied for this time:

Increase in wars, famines, plagues, earthquakes and natural disasters. Matthew 24, Luke 21. This will lead to a world crisis coming with no human solution, causing people to be afraid of what is coming on the earth. Luke 21.25-26, Revelation 6-19. There will be dangerous times with violence and immorality everywhere. Luke 17.26-30, 2 Timothy 3.1-9.

An environmental crisis causing great heat, trees burnt up, fish dying in the sea, and the waters becoming polluted. There will be famines as a result. Isaiah 24, Revelation 8.

This world crisis will give rise to a dictatorial form of government emerging controlled by one known as 'the beast' or Antichrist. 2 Thessalonians 2, Revelation 13, 17.

One sign which is unique to our time is the restoration of Israel and the current conflict over who should rule Jerusalem. The Bible indicates that this will focus world attention on the Middle East and lead to the last war which will end with the return of the Messiah to Jerusalem. Ezekiel 36-39, Zechariah 12-14, Luke 21.20-24, Revelation 16.16, 19.11-20.6.

There will be worldwide opposition to the true message of Jesus Christ, while millions turn to Him and find salvation and deliverance from the trouble that is coming. Matthew 24, 1 Thessalonians 4-5, Revelation 7.

Despite the 'gloom and doom', there is a great hope for the future for those who turn to God. Jesus told us He is going to return at such a time of this and save all those who put their trust in Him now. He said: 'Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.' (John 14.1-3, 1 Thessalonians 4-5)

To be ready for this event (or the moment of our death) we must repent and believe the Gospel, that Jesus Christ died for our sins, and rose again from the dead.

This is what we must do

1. Understand that God loves us and wants to give us eternal life:

'For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.' John 3.16.

2. Realise that by nature we are all sinners and separated from God because of sin:

'For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.' Romans 3.23.

'For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.' Romans 6.23.

3. Accept that Jesus Christ is God's only provision for sin:

'But God demonstrates His love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.' Romans 5.8.

'Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures and He was buried and rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.' 1 Corinthians 15.3-4.

4. Receive Jesus personally as Saviour and Lord:

'As many as received Him to them He gave the right to become children of God to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.' John 1.12.

Turn to the back of this magazine for a prayer of salvation and commitment to the Lord.

We have produced this article as a leaflet which we want to be widely distributed. Please contact us for free copies.

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The madness of modern Britain



'Tis the time's plague when madmen lead the blind.' This is a line taken from King Lear, in one of the most tragic scenes in Shakespeare. The old king has been stripped of his dignity by his wicked daughters, Goneril and Regan, and is going mad. Now homeless and penniless he is leading the blinded Duke of Gloucester through a raging storm on the way to his death.

Madmen leading the blind. Sometimes life in modern Britain feels a bit like this. Journalist Peter Hitchens had this to say about it all. 'People in foreign countries have worked out what Britain is like – nothing works, our schools are useless, our universities are even worse, we're not training people to do anything. We're very badly governed, we don't know how to run anything. The way in which our politicians behave, their incompetence, their inability to understand what is going on, their incredible willingness to spend money we haven't got, the refusal to face up to any of our major problems are leading to the decay of what was once a major civilisation. Do you think it will just carry on being an inhabitable place forever? You'll be surprised. Get out while you can.'

Allister Heath wrote in the Daily Telegraph: 'Ruined by decades of political vandalism, the Britain we knew and loved, a land of stability, pragmatism, and ancient freedoms, is no more. Our institutions have wasted away, and we have been taught to despise our history. The decline of family, community and faith have led to alienation … While the state becomes unnervingly authoritarian, the air reeks of insurrection and every variety of extremism. The British public's sense of betrayal is as well-founded as it is dangerous. The machinery of state is incompetent and self-serving, a vehicle for social engineering in the global interest.'

Melanie Phillips writes in her book, 'The Builder's Stone': 'Having decided that the West was rotten to the core, western elites set out to create a new culture that would usher in the brotherhood of man and eradicate hatred, prejudice, and war. Their Brave New World junked biblical religion with all its constraints on behaviour and revolved instead around self gratification. Everybody had the right to live as they wanted; nobody could say that their way of life was better or worse than anyone else's; no one had the right to say that their culture was better than any other culture. That was 'racism.' At the heart of all this was the doctrine that there was no such thing as objective truth. Everything was relative; everything was a matter of opinion. Because there was no truth feelings became more important than facts. So the West abandoned the codes of morality, conscience, truth and lies, personal responsibility, and duty to others in favour of a culture of the self. In the process it junked its inherited traditions and biblical codes on which western culture was based.'

This process rejects Christianity in favour of no religion or any other religion. It values 'diversity, equality and inclusion' and excludes biblical Christianity in the name of multiculturalism. A school in Hampshire sent letters to parents saying it was cancelling Easter celebrations 'out of respect for diversity' in order to create a 'more inclusive atmosphere that honours and respects the beliefs of all our children and their families'. So the beliefs and traditions of Christians that have influenced this nation for centuries have to be sacrificed on the altar of diversity. A court case was brought against a school in Northern Ireland ruling that Christian focused religious education was unlawful and breached the human rights of non believers because it was not taught in a 'pluralistic' way. A Christian teacher at a primary school in east London has been banned from teaching and reported for a hate crime for telling a Muslim pupil 'Britain is still a Christian state.' Christian staff in the NHS staff have been penalised for sharing their faith, offering to pray for patients or not using preferred pronouns for transgenders.

Meanwhile NHS staff were encouraged to join Muslims in fasting during Ramadan, in order to demonstrate solidarity with their Muslim colleagues and even encouraged to convert to Islam. Justifying this NHS England announced, 'We are a diverse country and that is reflected in the NHS workforce - it's vital that we make sure all our staff feel included so we can recruit and retain an NHS workforce that is as productive as possible.' It may no longer be safe to question this because the government is bringing in an 'Islamophobia' law that inhibits free speech and makes it difficult to criticise Islamic beliefs and practice. Sex education lessons are used to indoctrinate children with a values free approach to sex, affirming promiscuity, homosexuality and transsexuality. The government has allowed an experiment to test puberty blockers on healthy children who think they were 'born in the wrong body' and want to change gender. Children, some as young as eight years old, will be pumped with drugs that slow down or stop the natural development of their bodies through puberty, putting them on a medical pathway to possible infertility and sexual dysfunction.

Much of the official church goes along with this madness. The Church of England has stopped one of its own chaplains from fulfilling his ministry, because he held to the Bible and didn't promote LGBT ideology. Rev. Dr Bernard Randall was blacklisted for giving a sermon in the school chapel that upheld the Biblical view of marriage – the Church of England's own doctrine. Homosexual practice is gradually coming into the church as the former archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby said on BBC that sex outside of marriage, including homosexual sex, is acceptable to God as long as it is in a committed and loving relationship. I could find hundreds of examples of ways in which traditional beliefs and culture are being abandoned in our society in favour of a form of religion which denies the truth of the Bible.

What has caused this decline?

A census in 1851 showed that around 60% of the population regularly attended church

along with the same number of children who attended Sunday School where they learned basic education plus teaching on the Bible. Christianity shaped British institutions, government, education, culture, medicine, law and the judiciary. The missionary movement spread the Christian Gospel and knowledge of the Bible through evangelism, education, and medicine around the world, particularly in countries that were part of the British Empire. The Bible was translated and distributed into multiple languages and churches were established in countries that had hardly been touched by the Christian message. Britain played a leading role in this endeavour helping to fulfil the Great Commission that Jesus Christ gave to His disciples to take the Gospel into all the world. (Matthew 28.18-20).

Around this time the assault on Christianity also began. The poet Matthew Arnold published a poem 'Dover Beach' in 1867, which spoke of the retreat of 'the sea of faith' and how he now heard its 'melancholy long withdrawing roar'. The biblical world view was assaulted by new philosophies that took root across Europe.

Darwin

Darwin's theory of evolution contradicted the biblical account of creation and belief in a divinely created universe. This caused many to reject the Bible and its teachings, particularly the idea that humans are made in the image of God and are distinct from animals. This leads to the view that humans must make up their own reason for existing and moral order independent of God and His commandments. Out of Darwin's view came the idea that science contradicts faith in God, an idea that dominates the education system in the west today. Creationists are now effectively challenging the assumptions of evolution in support of the biblical narrative of creation, but they are excluded from the media, our education system and much of the church.

Marx

Marx developed revolutionary Communism, a radical form of humanism that put man at the centre of existence and dethroned God. Marx coined the phrase 'religion is the opium of the people', meaning that religion provides a form of comfort and distraction from suffering, much like opium soothes pain. It also hinders social and political change by keeping people from addressing the root causes of their suffering and joining the revolution, which the Marxists said would set people free from oppression and remove the need for faith in God. Lenin said this revolution would create a 'paradise on earth' to replace the idea of paradise in heaven ('Socialism and Religion'). Political Marxism failed miserably to produce the socialist paradise, creating instead dictatorship and persecution of Christianity.

Freud

Freud viewed God as an illusion and religion as a collective neurosis stemming from the psychological need for a father figure. He argued that belief in God served to cope with the anxieties of life and the inevitability of death. Freud gave the world the idea that sexual desire and fulfilment were the key to human existence. In his essay 'Civilisation and its discontents' he wrote that sexual love afforded the strongest experiences of satisfaction and happiness, and humans should make eroticism the central part of life. Freudian psychology became a key part of the assault on biblical moral values and sexual purity in western society. The result is the moral chaos and the breakdown of the family now to be found in western society. Melanie Phillips wrote: 'When sexual self restraint and traditional family life break down, society itself breaks down and the very survival of the culture is threatened.'

Nietzsche

Nietzsche declared that 'God is dead'. He did not mean that a literal deity has died, but rather that religious belief has lost its power as a source of truth and moral authority in society, so humans must create their own new values for a new world. He wrote a book called 'The Antichrist' in which he castigated Christianity as a 'religion of pity' and glorified the pursuit of power in a text which could have come straight from Nazi propaganda: 'What is happiness? The feeling that power increases, that resistance is overcome. Not contentment, but more power; not peace at all, but war; not virtue, but proficiency. The weak and ill constituted shall perish; the first principle of our philanthropy. And one shall help them to do so. What is more harmful than any vice? Active sympathy for the weak and ill constituted: Christianity.' Communism and Fascism turned out to be different sides of the same coin. Both brought enormous destruction to Europe and the world. All of these philosophies have in common a removal of God and the Bible and their replacement with a humanist man centred philosophy. This philosophy ends up with relative values of right and wrong – 'my truth' and 'your truth' as opposed to God's truth. It also denies the biblical concept of humans as sinners in need of redemption. The socialist anthem, the International, expresses this well:

'No Saviour from on high delivers,
No faith have we in prince or peer,
Our own right hand the chains will shiver,
Chains of hatred, greed and fear. '

So, Jesus can't save us and we must save ourselves. This denies the biblical doctrine of original sin and the saving work of Christ. It puts faith in 'our own right hand', trusting in human power to deliver us from the 'chains of hatred, greed and fear.' In practice this idea has done more to bind people in the chains of hatred, greed and fear than anything else. This is a strong delusion, maybe even the strong delusion of the Antichrist, as Paul wrote in 2 Thessalonians 2: 'And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.' The greatest tragedy is that instead of resisting this in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, much of the professing church has absorbed it and ends up preaching a christianised version of this philosophy. Having weakened Christianity and faith by these ideas, we then face the assault of multiculturalism which tells us that all cultures must be deemed to have values that are no better or worse than any other.

Therefore Christians should abandon their view that there is one God and one mediator between God and humanity, Jesus Christ, and teach that all roads lead to God, which is manifestly untrue.

This leaves us with no defence when we come up against Muslims telling us that the Bible is corrupted and has been replaced by the Koran, that Jesus is a prophet alongside (and inferior to) Mohammed who is the last prophet who has the last word from God. Islam denies that Jesus is Lord, the Son of God, who took on human flesh in order to redeem us to God through His sacrificial death and resurrection. According to the letter of John, this comes from the spirit of antichrist. 1 John 2.22-23, 1 John 4.2-3.

It may also leave us susceptible to yoga and New Age spirituality which tells us we can discover God within ourself. Hindu yoga teachers say, 'Man is divine, the inner man is fully divine. Be still and know you are God. When you know you are God you will begin to live Godhood.' 'Kneel to your own self. Honour and worship your own being. God dwells within you as You.'

This is completely false teaching. God exists outside of ourselves and separate from His creation. We can only know Him through accepting Him to come into our lives from outside. Jesus says, 'Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.' If we look within ourselves for the answer we will find a sinful human nature, subject to demonic influences. The Apostle Paul wrote, 'I know that in me, that is in my flesh, dwells no good thing.' (Romans 7.18). We need to be set free from this by repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus. When we do this we will be filled with the Holy Spirit and be born again to eternal life in the kingdom of God.

The answer

The antichristian trend in society is a sign of the last days. The Apostle Paul wrote: 'But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!'

This will result in persecution and deception. The answer is to learn the truth from the scriptures which are given by God and to preach the Gospel.

I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfil your ministry.' 2 Timothy 3.1-4.5.

Who can bring Peace to Israel?



President Trump has put forward his peace plan and the UN Security Council has now adopted it. People of good will hope for peace as the Bible calls us to 'pray for the peace of Jerusalem'. Psalm 122.6. But the Bible also warns that talk of peace may be deceptive. The Hebrew prophet Jeremiah warned, 'From the least to the greatest, their lives are ruled by greed. From prophets to priests, they are all frauds. They offer superficial treatments for my people's mortal wound. They give assurances of peace when there is no peace.' Jeremiah 6.13-15 (New Living Translation). The Authorised version says 'peace, peace when there is no peace.'

For the past two years we have seen a situation of no peace and great destruction following Hamas's invasion of Israel and massacre of its citizens on October 7th 2023. The IDF went into Gaza with the aim of destroying Hamas militarily, removing the security threat it posed to Israel and releasing all the hostages.

This caused mass casualties and destruction, turning most of the world against Israel. Demonstrators against Israel called for an end to war, and in many cases an end to the Jewish state itself as they chant 'From the river to the Sea Palestine will be free.' Jewish people in diaspora countries experienced a new wave of hatred and anti-Semitism with a growing number of terror attacks. Israel became the subject of world wide hatred with accusations of genocide against the Palestinians. Israel did what it could to minimise the civilian casualties, but it had no choice about dealing with an organisation that had armed itself with thousands of missiles aimed at its heartlands. These were stored in tunnels behind human shields made up of Gaza's civilian population. Iran supplied them to Hamas and other terrorist groups in Lebanon, Iraq, Syria and Yemen. These forces bear a huge responsibility for the disaster that has come upon Gaza.

Two State Solution – historical background

The nations of the world, including Britain, have proposed a solution to the conflict. UN Secretary General Guterres spelt it out when he told the UN General Assembly what this means: 'Two independent democratic sovereign nations, Israel and Palestine live side by side with peace and security within recognised borders on the basis of the pre 1967 lines, with Jerusalem as the capital of both states in line with international law.'

On the surface that sounds like a fair solution to the problem. Divide the disputed land with each party taking a share and then they live in peace together. But it's not that simple. Israel's fear is that the Palestinians will not live in peace with them, but use whatever

territory is given them as a base from which to attack them. History shows they have good reason for this fear.

Interestingly the prophecy of Joel 3 indicates that the attempt to divide up the land will happen in the last days and God will not be happy about it: 'I will also gather all nations, and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat (Jehoshaphat means God judges); 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.

In 1947 UN Resolution 181 proposed dividing the land west of the Jordan River between a Jewish and an Arab State, with Jerusalem as an International Zone under UN control. Israel accepted the idea, but the Arabs attacked with the intention of destroying Israel the day after Ben Gurion proclaimed the State of Israel in Tel Aviv on May 14th 1948. Israel won the war and gained more territory with the borders fixed at the ceasefire line in 1969. In 1967 Egypt led the charge to destroy Israel, to be joined by Syria and Jordan. They were defeated in the Six Day War, and the West Bank (the biblical heartland of Judea and Samaria centring on Jerusalem), the Golan Heights, Gaza and Sinai came under Israeli control. Note all Israel's wars have been defensive wars against aggressors seeking their destruction. Israel's army is called the Israel Defence Force.

The PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation) became the forefront of Arab opposition to Israel. Its leader, Yasser Arafat, famously declared, "Peace



Armistice Lines 1949

for us means the destruction of Israel. We are preparing for an all-out war, a war which will last for generations." The PLO covenant called for 'the total liberation' of Palestine by armed struggle and the replacement of Israel with a Palestinian state from the River Jordan to the Mediterranean Sea. (Articles 3,9,18, 21 and 22). The PLO then changed their tactic and adopted what they called the 'Phased Policy' which worked on a political solution, setting up an interim government on territory Israel chose to withdraw from and then using it to continue the war against Israel. The Oslo Accords signed in 1993 between Yasser Arafat and Israel Prime Minister Rabin was hailed as a peace settlement, but has turned out to be a base from which to continue terrorism and war against Israel. In 2000 Israeli PM Barak offered the Palestinians most of what they wanted in return for genuine peace and recognition of Israel's right to exist. They weren't willing to make peace with Israel, so went back to terrorism in the second Intifada. As one comment put it 'While they wanted a Palestinian state, what they didn't want was a Jewish state. The destruction of Israel remains their principle objective.'

In 2005 Israel withdrew completely from Gaza and handed it over to the Palestinian Authority (PA). In 2005, Hamas took over the territory in 2007 after a bloody civil war with the PA. Hamas is an offshoot of the Muslim Brotherhood that aims at recreating the Islamic Caliphate. Hamas' covenant commits to 'allegiance to Allah and strives to raise the banner of Allah / Islam over every inch of Palestine' (Article 6). The whole area is described as 'an Islamic possession (Waqf) consecrated for future Moslem generations until Judgment Day.' This will involve the destruction of Israel, as Hamas covenant says: 'Israel will exist and will continue to exist until Islam will obliterate it, just as it obliterated others before it.'

This covenant is based on Islamic teaching that the whole area is part of the Dar al Islam (abode of Islam) which must be ruled by Muslims until the Day of Judgment (end of the world). This idea remains a potent one in the Muslim world. More people in the Palestinian Authority (West Bank) support Hamas than the present government under Fatah and President Abbas.

Trump's Peace Plan

After two years of conflict US President Trump drew up the 20 point peace plan for Israel and Gaza, which brought about the return of the hostages and the ceasefire deal. Trump told the Israeli Knesset on 13 October that this plan would bring peace to the land and the region 'God willing, for all eternity' and be the 'historic dawn of a new Middle East.'

Peace, peace where there is no peace. Hamas is refusing to surrender their arms, saying they will only do so to an independent and sovereign Palestinian state. Israel's Prime Minister Netanyahu has ruled out the establishment of a Palestinian state in the present circumstances, so that appears to be an impasse. Hamas is still calling the shots on who should govern Gaza after the war. The 'International Stabilisation Force' scheduled to oversee reconstruction is not yet in place.

The estimated the cost of rebuilding Gaza is about $70 billion, taking about seven to twenty years to complete even in favourable conditions. Basic infrastructure is destroyed along with about 80-90% of the buildings, leaving over one million people homeless, living in tents, many now flooded out by winter rains. The potential for starvation and the spreading of disease is great.

If there is no progress on rebuilding Gaza the prophecy of Zephaniah could be fulfilled: 'For Gaza shall be forsaken, and Ashkelon desolate; they shall drive out Ashdod at noonday, and Ekron shall be uprooted. Woe to the inhabitants of the

seacoast, the nation of the Cherethites! The word of the Lord is against you, O Canaan, land of the Philistines: "I will destroy you; so there shall be no inhabitant." Zephaniah 2.4-5.

For the sake of the people who live there we hope this will not be their fate. Unless they can make a way to start rebuilding soon and make peace not war that may well be the fate of Gaza.

So, who can make peace for Israel and the Middle East?

According to the Bible there will be a concentration of world attention on the region of the Middle East in the last days of this age. The following events are to be found in Bible prophecy.

1. The worldwide dispersion of the Jewish people from the land of Israel to the nations of the earth. This began with the fall of Jerusalem to the Romans and destruction of the Temple in the year 70. 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 21.24.

2. The regathering of the Jewish people to the land of Israel in the latter days of this age. "Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, 'He who scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him as a shepherd does his flock.' Jeremiah 31.10.

3. Opposition to this process by the people of the region leading to a series of wars over control of the land of Israel. 'Your enemies make a tumult; And those who hate You have lifted up their head. They have taken crafty counsel against Your people, and consulted together against Your sheltered ones. They have said, "Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation, that the name of Israel may be remembered no more." Psalm 83.2-4.

4. Jerusalem to be recovered by the Jewish people but to be a source of tension involving regional powers and the whole world. "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. See also Luke 21.24.

5. A temporary peace covenant involving many nations to be put in place. A seven-year time frame in view. "Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate." Daniel 9.27.

6. The peace to break down and lead to the last days wars of Gog and Magog and Armageddon. "For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. …. And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon." Revelation 16.14-16. See also Ezekiel 38-9 and Zechariah 14.

7. The return of the Messiah Yeshua / Jesus Christ in power to bring an end to war and set up the Messianic kingdom ruling the world in peace and justice from Jerusalem. '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 2.1-4. See also Revelation 11.15, 19.11-20.6.



According to point five in the above sequence of events, there will be a temporary peace covenant before the final conflict and the return of Jesus the Messiah.

Prophecy indicates this covenant will be mediated by many nations, promising peace but breaking down half way through the process and leading to the final conflict. The present peace plan is not that covenant, but it could be a first move towards it, to be ratified and put in place at a later date when the right time comes and the necessary forces are in place. The fact that Trump's plan has now been endorsed by the UN Security Council is significant. This means it is no longer an American plan but an emerging world wide framework. A world government project if you like.

Saudi Arabia is now playing a key role in Trump's vision for peace and prosperity in the Middle East. Mohammed bin Salman, de facto Saudi ruler is a moderniser, taking the country out of the hard line Islamic world view, more open to western influences and liberalisation. Saudi is opposed to Iran's Islamist regime and its influence in the Arab world. Trump wants Saudi to join the Abraham Accords, which include Arab and Muslim countries that have made some kind of settlement with Israel. Saudi wants Israel to make moves towards a Palestinian State first, conditional on the Palestinians abandoning the terrorist influence and being willing to live at peace with Israel.

Saudi Arabia was part of an existing plan that predates the present war over Gaza. This is known as the India-Middle East-Europe Corridor, a proposed channel of technology, economy and trade to link India and East Asia through Saudi Arabia and Jordan to Israel and on to Europe. This was first proposed at the G20 summit in New Delhi in 2023, endorsed

by leaders of the US, India, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, France, Germany, Italy and the EU.

Israeli PM Netanyahu referred to this when he addressed the UN on September 27, 2023, describing it as a 'new corridor of peace and prosperity, a pivot of history that could change the face of the Middle East and benefit the entire world.' It never made any progress because on October 7th 2023, Hamas launched its attack on Israel, which started the cycle of war that has plagued the region ever since. Some people believe that Hamas launched this attack with approval from Iran in order to prevent any progress in this plan.

While western forces plus moderate Arab forces are in favour of this plan, there is opposition from countries under the more radical Islamic anti Israel influence, including Iran and Turkey. Russia and China too have their reasons to oppose it.

Put this together and you have a potential alliance of nations opposed to this programme which line up with the nations involved in the Gog and Magog war of Ezekiel 38. These nations come against Israel in an invasion from the north that is opposed by western powers and some Arab nations (see Ezekiel 38.1-13). This army will be destroyed by divine intervention on the 'mountains of Israel' (Ezekiel 38.14-39.10).

The army will come through Syria. A year ago the Assad dictatorship was overthrown by rebels led by a former jihadi, who is now President al-Sharaa. He has claimed to have moved away from his previous support for al Qaeda, but not everyone is convinced. Israeli Minister Amichai Shikli warned that 'War with Syria is inevitable.' He was responding to video footage of anti-Israel incitement at a Syrian military parade where soldiers chanted: 'Gaza, our rallying cry, victory and steadfastness, night and day. We rise against you, Israeli enemy, we rise, from mountains of fire we make our way. From my blood I forge my ammunition, from your blood, rivers will flow. I'm marching towards you, my enemy.'

Shikli said: 'What is unfolding in Syria is the emergence of a jihadist state and a jihadist army in Damascus motivated by Muslim Brotherhood ideology and seeking to establish a Caliphate and global dominance. In Islam there is no room for other religions. The faith divides the world into two spheres, Dar al-Islam ('Abode of Islam') and Dar al-Harb ('Abode of War'). You have jihad in Europe, which is currently being led in a non-violent way, using the weaknesses of democracy to push Islam forward. In the Middle East, it is much more violent, as we saw with Hamas and during the civil war in Syria and Iraq. … Al-Julani is clear about his intentions, and so is Turkish President Erdogan.' (Jewish News Syndicate).

So, where is this leading?

Put all this together and you have three possible prophetic fulfilments in view.

1. A flawed peace covenant which turns out to be a 'covenant with death' and leads to another round of war and conflict (Daniel 9.27 and Isaiah 28.14-22).

2. A war involving Syria which results in the destruction of Damascus. 'Behold, Damascus will cease from being a city, and it will be a ruinous heap.' (Isaiah 17.1-3).

3. The war of Gog and Magog involving an army coming from the north led by either Russia or Turkey, including Persia (Iran) and other allies from Muslim countries. (Ezekiel 38.1-6). This army will be opposed by western powers and countries in the Arabian Peninsula (Ezekiel 38.13). It will be destroyed supernaturally by God on the 'mountains of Israel.' Ezekiel 38.14-23.

The timing and exact order of these events is not easy to work out but the Bible indicates that they will all happen at some stage in the end time events.

The eventual outcome will be the return of the Messiah, who is Jesus / Yeshua, the Saviour of the world, who has been once to fulfil the prophecy of the Suffering Servant Messiah of Isaiah 53 by bearing our sins:

'He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But 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. All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned everyone to his own way and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.' Isaiah 53.3-6.

He is the one who gives us personal peace now, when we put our trust in Him. 'He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. … For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.' Colossians 1.13-20

He is coming again to judge the world in righteousness according to how we respond to this message. He loves the Jewish and Arab people, the Christians and the Muslims and the unbelievers. He calls us all to repent of sin and believe the Gospel so that we may be ready for the moment of our death or the great day of His return.

This gives us hope for the future and promises a wonderful future to those who turn to the Lord now, including Jewish and Arab people. In that day Israel will be one of three with Egypt and Assyria—a blessing in the midst of the land, whom the Lord of hosts shall bless, saying, "Blessed is Egypt My people, and Assyria the work of My hands, and Israel My inheritance." Isaiah 19.24-25.

When He returns all wars will end, He will take over the government of the nations and bring 1000 years of peace and justice to the world. After this God will bring this world to an end and create a new heaven and new earth for the redeemed of all generations to live in forever. The fact that these things are happening now is a sign that we are living in the last days before the return of the Messiah. He is the only one who can bring real peace to Israel, to the Middle East and to the whole world.

Droughts, floods and the coming apocalypse



Historic Allahverdi Bridge in Isfahan, Iran, built over Zayanderud river now dried up. Zayahderud means life giving river.

On 23rd November 2025 Iran's President Pezeshkian made an astonishing statement: "We're running short of water. If it doesn't rain, we in Tehran must start rationing. If it still does not rain, then we will have no water at all. The citizens must evacuate Tehran."

At the time of writing (17 December) some rain has fallen in Tehran but not enough to relieve the crisis, which has been caused by years of low rainfall and very hot weather. This summer there were periods in which the temperature was well over 40C and even up to 50C (over 120 degrees Fahrenheit) for days on end.

It is not just the weather that is the problem. Years of chronic mismanagement by the regime's Revolutionary Guards, known as the Water Mafia' by environmental activists, have led to this crisis. They are accused of wholesale mismanagement of the situation, exploiting their political influence to implement large-scale, unsustainable projects such as dam construction, river diversion, and excessive groundwater extraction.

As a result, the river that supplies Tehran has run dry, the dams and reservoirs are empty, there are long periods when no water comes out of the taps. Crops are dying in the fields and food shortages grow as fields turn to dust. Underground wells and aquifers that have stored water below the ground for centuries have collapsed causing infrastructure above them to crumble. Parts of the city are sinking at a rate of 35 centimeters per year causing damage to houses and roads and breaking underground pipes needed to carry the water to people's homes. Once the aquifers have collapsed, they cannot be restored, meaning that even if it does rain, this source of water is gone forever.

The Islamic regime has completely failed to fix this crisis, but it does continue to fund its terrorist proxies and supply them with missiles aimed at destroying Israel. Ironically Israel is the one country which could help fix the water crisis and has offered to do so in return for peace, but the regime is not interested in peace or looking after the needs of its own people. The people are furious with their government for wasting their money on supporting wars and creating weapons of destruction, while failing to fix the nation's vital infrastructure.

The crisis can be explained by natural phenomena – low rainfall, excessive heat, as well as human incompetence and corruption as outlined above. There is another factor to be considered. The judgement of God is falling on a corrupt, regime that oppresses its people, persecutes the Christians and dedicates its money and resources to trying to destroy the people and the land of Israel. God says He will bless those who bless His people and curse those who curse them.

In Ezekiel 38 Persia / modern Iran is listed among the nations that come against Israel in the latter days War of Gog and Magog and meet their doom on the mountains of Israel. In Jeremiah 49 we read that God will "break the bow" of Elam (one of the biblical names for modern Iran), the "mainstay of their might". This sounds very much like their capacity to fire weapons. God will "destroy their king and officials", so the leaders will be taken out. Iran's President talked of evacuating the cities. This prophecy says: 'Against Elam I will bring the four winds from the four quarters of heaven, and scatter them toward all those winds; there shall be no nations where the outcasts of Elam will not go.' Jeremiah 49.36.

Already there are thousands of Iranian refugees from the tyrannical Islamic regime living in America and Europe. If they are serious about evacuating Tehran, the question is where will they go?

In this case they would become "Climate refugees", a term for people

forced to move due to climate change impacts. Environmentalists have warned that this will become a growing phenomenon in days to come as parts of the world become uninhabitable as a result of rising temperatures, drought and shortage of water.

Droughts and floods

Iran is not the only country facing drought conditions. The Euphrates is the longest river in western Asia, flowing through Turkey, Syria and Iraq, where it joins the river Tigris. For thousands of years these two rivers supported civilisation and the great cities of Babylon and Nineveh (Assyria) in Mesopotamia, the land between the two rivers. The rivers made this area fertile and productive, being the only significant source of fresh water in an arid region.

Now as a result of dam construction in Turkey and Syria, climate change and mismanagement, water flows have decreased dramatically. Some estimates say the Euphrates could disappear completely by 2040. Temperatures are rising, rainfall has fallen drastically and soil is being eroded. As a result, crops are failing in Iraq's fertile plains that fed the ancient empires of Babylon and Persia. Food shortages are becoming more frequent, and pollution levels are rising, bringing disease to humans and livestock. People are leaving the countryside for the cities which cannot absorb more people. There are warnings of a humanitarian disaster with consequences that are irreversible. Lakes and wetlands that once supported a fertile ecosystem now dry up and release toxic dust into the region.

The disappearing river is another sign of the end of days scenario coming upon us as we read in Revelation 9.14 and 16.2: 'Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared.'

It's not all droughts though. Even as I write this article news has come in of torrential rain causing flooding in northern Iraq. In Punjab, unprecedented flooding has submerged thousands of villages and devastated millions of acres of farmland—destroying staple crops like rice, sugarcane, maize, vegetables, and cotton—displacing over 2 million people and forcing evacuations of 760,000 people and 516,000 animals.

In 2025, China experienced a series of catastrophic dam failures due to extreme weather conditions, leading to widespread flooding. Where flooding occurred, it destroyed crops in agricultural land and factories close to the rivers. Toxic waste from the factories flowed into the rivers, adding to the pollution problem. Around 10% of China's rivers are now heavily polluted. In the north of China there has been extreme drought, so it is suffering from both drought and flooding in the same country.

Dam nuisance

One of the causes of the Euphrates problem is the construction of dams upstream in Turkey causing a change in the flow of water. In effect Turkey is stealing Iraq's water supply. The construction of dams affecting the natural flow of rivers is also a cause of Iran's water crisis.

China has built the world's largest dam on the Yangtse river, the Three Gorges Dam, displacing over a million people in its construction. It has created an enormous lake behind the dam. There are fears that if the dam should ever break it would flood the whole area downstream, including Wuhan and Shanghai, causing the death of around 400 million people. China has also built dams in the Himalayas affecting major rivers like the Mekong that flows through Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam. It is also building a dam on the Yarlung Tsangpo river in Tibet which will affect waters flowing into India and Bangladesh, where it is known as the Brahmaputra. Not only do these dams reduce water flow they also trap sediment upstream, with serious implications for farming. Around 70 percent of Bangladesh's population lives in the Brahmaputra basin, and any alterations to the river will likely have severe impacts on citizens' livelihoods.

Egypt's lifeline is the River Nile, flowing from central Africa and the mountains of Ethiopia through Sudan and Egypt to the Mediterranean. Ethiopia has constructed The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance on the Blue Nile and Egypt is concerned that this will disrupt the water flow into Egypt. Ethiopia has given assurances that it will not, but this remains a source of tension in the region.

The High Aswan Dam in Egypt, built in 1970, has impacted Egypt's ecology leading to environmental problems. It has disrupted the natural flow of the Nile River causing sediment to build up upstream and erosion downstream. Prior to the construction of the dam rich sediment flowed down to Egypt from central Africa. In the seasonal floods of the river, this sediment was deposited on the banks of the Nile creating a fertile environment

for growing food, which fed Egypt for millennia, as recorded in the Bible in Genesis and Exodus. In the time of the New Testament Egypt was the breadbasket of the Roman Empire. Paul boarded a grain ship from Alexandria on his journey to Rome (Acts 27.6). Now the sediment that fed the farms of Egypt lies trapped behind the Aswan Dam and the farmers are forced to use toxic artificial fertilizer which then drains into the Nile and damages the environment downstream.

This crisis too is prophesied in the Bible. Isaiah 19 is a prophecy for Egypt which speaks of the Nile River turning foul:

'The waters will fail from the sea, and the river will be wasted and dried up. The rivers will turn foul; the brooks of defence will be emptied and dried up; the reeds and rushes will wither. The papyrus reeds by the River, by the mouth of the River, and everything sown by the River, will wither, be driven away, and be no more. The fishermen also will mourn; all those will lament who cast hooks into the River, and they will languish who spread nets on the waters.' Isaiah 19.5-8.

It is interesting that the two great rivers of Bible times, the Nile and the Euphrates both have prophecies about them being affected by some kind of environmental disaster in the last days. The prophets did not know about rivers outside of their orbit so maybe this is a sign of a general environmental problem affecting the world in the end times.

The environment and the end times

More than three-quarters of the land on the surface of our planet is steadily getting drier. All over the world, forests are being ripped out, greenery is disappearing and once vibrant soil is being degraded. A report by the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), warns that if the trend continues, up to five billion people could live in drylands by the century's end -- causing soils to deplete, water resources to dwindle, and vital ecosystems to collapse. When land dries out it has a whole host of absolutely disastrous consequences, loss of GDP, forced migration, increased mortality due to dust storms, worsening of wildfires, land erosion, vegetation degradation, salinization of water and soil, and more. Without vegetation to anchor it, topsoil - critical for plant growth - washes away during rainfall or is blown away by winds, taking with it vital nutrients.

Meanwhile, governments are messing around with the weather and conducting all sorts of secretive geoengineering experiments, like cloud seeding, spreading Sulphur dioxide into the atmosphere in an attempt to cool the earth and cause rain to fall. If that rain falls as acid rain, it could cause further damage to ecosystems, agriculture, and human health.

This crisis coming on the earth bears an uncanny resemblance to the environmental disasters prophesied for the Great Tribulation time in the Book of Revelation.

'So the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound. 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. Then the second angel sounded: And something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood. And a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed. Then the third angel sounded: And a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water. The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter. Then the fourth angel sounded: And a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them were darkened. A third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night.' Revelation 8.7-12

While this passage does concern the seven-year period of the Great Tribulation and the events that occur in it, the disasters it prophesied are happening already in part today. Vegetation, trees and crops are being struck, fish are dying in the sea, waters are becoming undrinkable, and there are places where pollution is darkening the sky and blotting out the sun.

This will be followed by great and unbearable heat. 'Then the fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and power was given to him to scorch men with fire. And men were scorched with great heat, and they blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues; and they did not repent and give Him glory.' Revelation 16.8-9.

Isaiah 24 indicates that there will be a human responsibility for these things happening, caused by human mismanagement of the earth and also disobedience to God's word and commands:

'The earth mourns and fades away, the world languishes and fades away; The haughty people of the earth languish. The earth is also defiled (or polluted) under its inhabitants, because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore the curse has devoured the earth, and those who dwell in it are desolate. Therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men are left.' Isaiah 24.4-6.

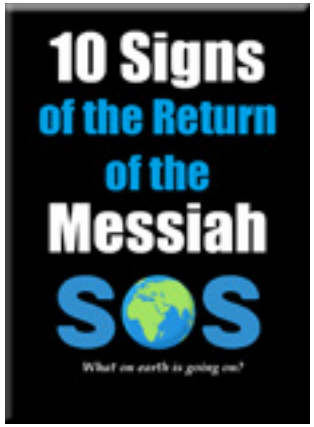
All of this can be very frightening, especially when we realise there is very little we can do about it. Jesus has warned us about a time of great trouble coming on the earth causing people to be afraid of what is coming on the earth:

'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.

When Jesus returns, He will fix the environmental problem along with all the other bad things happening in the world now.

'The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them, and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose; It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice, even with joy and singing. … Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb sing.

For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert. The parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water.' Isaiah 35.1-7.



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 days to come. One of the reasons we believe the future prophecies will be fulfilled is that there are so many prophecies of the past that have already been fulfilled. The prophecies are not just vague predictions of future events, but very specific in their nature. The most important of these prophecies concern the life, death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ or to give Him His Hebrew name, Yeshua ha Mashiach.

In this article we list major prophecies of the Messiah which Jesus fulfilled at His first coming and those which He will fulfil at His Second Coming. We have also produced answers to objections to our interpretation of these prophecies in articles on the website https://messiahfactor.com
A printed version of all these articles is available on request.

Prophecies about the Messiah which have been already fulfilled

Messiah to be born in Bethlehem:

Prophecy: 'But as for you Bethlehem Ephratah, 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 goings forth are from of old, from everlasting.' Micah 5.2 (5.1 in the Jewish Bible).

Fulfilment: 'Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king …. And when he (Herod) 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 My people Israel.' See Matthew 2.1-6 and Luke 2.1-20.
For more details go to:
https://messiahfactor.com/the-birth-of-the-messiah/

Messiah to be born of a virgin:

Prophecy: 'Therefore behold the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold the virgin shall conceive and bear a son and shall call His name Immanuel.' Isaiah 7.14

Fulfilment: '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 him (Joseph) in a dream saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she shall bring forth a son and you shall call His name Jesus (Yeshua in Hebrew, meaning salvation) for He will save His people from their sins. 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 1.18-25

For answers to objections to the translation of Isaiah 7.14 as 'virgin' and issues concerning the virgin birth go to our article 'Can we believe in the Virgin Birth?' https://messiahfactor.com/can-we-believe-in-the-virgin-birth

Messiah to be a Son who is also the Mighty God:

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

Fulfilment: 'The Lord will come upon you (Mary) 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 https://messiahfactor.com/messiah-a-great-man-or-a-divine-person/

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 heal the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of prison to those who are bound.' Isaiah 61.1

Fulfilment: 'Then 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. See also Luke 4.16-21

Messiah to teach in parables:

Prophecy: 'I will open my mouth in a parable.' Psalm 78.2

Fulfilment: 'All these things Jesus spoke to the multitude in parables; without a parable He did not speak to them.' Matthew 13.34

Messiah to be a light to the Gentiles:

Prophecy: 'I will also give you as a light to the Gentiles, that you should be my salvation to the ends of the earth.' Isaiah 49.6

Fulfilment: 'My eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel.' Luke 2.31-2. See also Matthew 28.18-20 and Acts 13.47-8.

Messiah to enter Jerusalem on a donkey:

Prophecy: 'Rejoice greatly O daughter of Zion! Shout O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold your king is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey, a colt, a foal of a donkey.' Zechariah 9.9

Fulfilment: 'So they brought the donkey and the colt, laid their clothes on them and set Him on them. And a very great multitude spread their clothes on the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread them on the road.' Matthew 21.1-11

Messiah to be rejected and sacrificed:

Prophecy: 'He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of Sorrows and acquainted with grief.' Isaiah 53.3 'The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. … Bind the sacrifice with cords to the horns of the altar.' Psalm 118.22, 27.

Fulfilment: 'Jesus began to show the disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and the chief priests and scribes and be killed and be raised the third day.' Matthew 16.21

Messiah to be betrayed for 30 pieces of silver:

Prophecy: 'So they weighed out for my wages thirty pieces of silver. And the Lord said to me, "Throw it to the potter" – that princely sum they set on me. So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the Lord for the potter.' Zechariah 11.12-13

Fulfilment: 'Then one of the twelve called Judas Iscariot went to the chief priests and said, 'What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?' And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver.' Matthew 26.14-5. See also Matthew 27.3-10.
For more information on Judas go to https://messiahfactor.com/betrayal-of-jesus-by-judas/

Messiah to be forsaken by His disciples:

Prophecy: 'Awake O sword against my shepherd, against the man who is my companion,' says the Lord of hosts. 'Strike the Shepherd and the sheep will be scattered.' Zechariah 13.7

Fulfilment: 'Then they all forsook Him and fled.' Mark 14.50

Messiah to be dumb before His accusers:

Prophecy: 'He was oppressed and afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth.' Isaiah 53.7

Fulfilment: 'And while He was being accused by the chief priests and elders, He answered nothing.' Matthew 27.12

Messiah to be mocked:

Prophecy: 'All those who see me ridicule me; they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, "He trusted in the Lord, let Him rescue Him; let Him deliver Him since He delights in Him." Psalm 22.7-8

Fulfilment: 'Likewise the chief priests also mocking with the scribes and elders said, "He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He is the King of Israel let Him now come down from the cross and we will believe in Him. He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now if He will have Him." Matthew 27.41-3

Messiah to die by crucifixion:

Prophecy: 'They pierced my hands and feet.' Psalm 22.18.
'They shall look on me whom they have pierced.' Zechariah 12.10

Fulfilment: 'And when they had taken Him to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him.' Luke 23.33

For a study of Psalm 22 and this translation of verse 18 as 'they pierced my hands and feet' go to our article
http://messiahfactor.com/psalm-22

Messiah to bear the sin of the world:

Prophecy: 'All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, everyone, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.' Isaiah 53.6.

Fulfilment: 'For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Messiah died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.' 1 Corinthians 15.3-4.

Messiah to make intercession for transgressors:

Prophecy: 'He bore the sin of many and made intercession for the transgressors.' Isaiah 53.12

Fulfilment: 'Then Jesus said, "Father forgive them for they know not what they do."' Luke 23.34
'He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.' Hebrews 7.25-26

Messiah's bones not to be broken:

Prophecy: 'He guards all His bones. Not one of them is broken.' Psalm 34.20. See also Exodus 12.46, Numbers 9.22

Fulfilment: 'But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead they did not break His legs. . . . For these things were done that the scripture should be fulfilled, "Not one of His bones shall be broken." John 19.33, 36

Messiah to be buried in a rich man's tomb:

Prophecy: 'And they made His grave with the wicked, but with the rich at His death.' Isaiah 53.9

Fulfilment: 'Now when evening had come, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who himself had become a disciple of Jesus. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be given to him. When Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his new tomb which he had hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb and he departed.' Matthew 27.57-60

For issues relating to Messiah's suffering and its connection to Isaiah 53 go to our articles
https://messiahfactor.com/the-suffering-servant-of-isaiah-53/
https://messiahfactor.com/atonement-sacrifices-and-blood/
https://messiahfactor.com/crucifixion-accounts/

Messiah to rise again from the dead:

Prophecy: 'For you will not leave my soul in Sheol (the place of the dead), nor will you allow your holy one to see corruption. You will show me the path of life.' Psalm 69.10-11

'For He was cut off from the land of the living. ... When you make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days.' Isaiah 53.8, 10

Fulfilment: "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here but is risen!" Luke 24.5-6

'(Jesus) presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.' Acts 1.3

'Christ / Messiah died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.' 1 Corinthians 15.3-4

For issues relating to the resurrection accounts in the New Testament go to

https://messiahfactor.com/resurrection-accounts/

The message of salvation through Messiah to go into all the world:

Prophecy: 'Look to me and be saved all you ends of the earth! For I am God and there is no other. I have sworn by myself; the word has gone out in righteousness and shall not return, that to me every knee shall bow.' Isaiah 45.22-3

Fulfilment: 'And Jesus came and spoke to them saying, "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo I am with you always even unto the end of the age.' Matthew 28.18-20.

Conclusion concerning prophecies of the Messiah's first coming

Bible scholars suggest there are more than 300 prophetic Scriptures completed in the life of Jesus. Circumstances such as his birthplace, lineage, and method of execution were beyond His control and could not have been accidentally or deliberately fulfilled.

In the book Science Speaks, Peter Stoner and Robert Newman discuss the statistical improbability of one man, whether accidentally or deliberately, fulfilling just eight of the prophecies Jesus fulfilled. The chance of this happening, they say, is 1 in 10^{17} (10^17 or 100 quadrillion) That is, 1 in 100, 000, 000, 000, 000, 000.

Stoner gives an illustration that helps visualize the magnitude of such odds: 'Suppose that we take 10^{17} silver dollars and lay them on the face of Texas (Texas is roughly the same area as France). They will cover all of the state two feet deep. Now mark one of these silver dollars and stir the whole mass thoroughly, all over the state.

Blindfold a man and tell him that he can travel as far as he wishes, but he must pick up just one silver dollar, and this must be the right one. What chance would he have of getting the right one? Just the same chance that the prophets would have had of writing these eight prophecies and having them all come true in any one man, from their day to the present time, providing they wrote using their own wisdom. The mathematical improbability of 300, or 44, or even just eight fulfilled prophecies of Jesus stands as evidence to his messiahship and to the inspiration of the Bible as the Word of God.

Prophecies of the second coming of Messiah



There are also Messianic prophecies which have not yet been fulfilled. In the Hebrew scripture these are associated with the 'Day of the Lord' and the end of days (acharit ha yamim in Hebrew). In the New Testament they are associated with the Second Coming of Jesus. Here are some of the major prophecies concerning the Day of the Lord or the Second Coming which are in the process of being fulfilled or have yet to be fulfilled.

A time of unparalleled trouble to precede the Day of the Lord:

Prophecy: 'At that time Michael shall stand up, the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that time.' Daniel 12.1

Fulfilment: 'For then there will be great tribulation such as has never been since the beginning of the world until this time, no nor ever shall be.' Matthew 24.21

Focal point of this time of trouble to be Jerusalem:

Prophecy: '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 12.3

Fulfilment: 'But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies then know that its desolation is near. … Jerusalem will be trodden down of the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.' Luke 21.20-24

Nations to be gathered for the final battle:

Prophecy: 'Assemble and come all you nations, and gather together all around. Cause your mighty ones to come down there, O Lord. Let the nations be wakened and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat' (Hebrew word means 'The Lord judges'). Joel 3.11-16

Fulfilment: 'For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to battle of that great day of God Almighty. … And they gathered them together in the place called in Hebrew Armageddon.' Revelation 16.14-16

Messiah to come in the clouds of heaven:

Prophecy: 'I was watching in the night visions, and behold one like the Son of Man coming with the clouds of heaven!' Daniel 7.13

Fulfilment: 'Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.' Matthew 24.30

Messiah to be visible as one who has been pierced:

Prophecy: 'And I will pour on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on me whom they pierced and mourn for Him as one mourns for His only son and grieve for Him as one grieves for a first born.' Zechariah 12.10

Future Fulfilment: 'Behold He is coming with the clouds and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him.' Revelation 1.7

The wicked to flee from the coming of the Lord:

Prophecy: 'In that day a man will cast away his idols … to go into the clefts of the rocks and into the crags of the rugged rocks from the terror of the Lord and the glory of His majesty, when He arises to shake the earth mightily.' Isaiah 2.20-21

Future Fulfilment: 'And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb." Revelation 6.15-6

Messiah to come to the Mount of Olives:

Prophecy: 'Then the Lord will go forth and fight against those nations as He fights in the day of battle. And His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives which faces Jerusalem on the east.' Zechariah 14.2-3

Future Fulfilment: '"Men of Galilee why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus who was taken up from you into heaven will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven." Then they returned to Jerusalem from the Mount called Olivet (Mount of Olives).' Acts 1.11-12

The Lord to establish righteousness and peace on the earth:

Prophecy: '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'. Isaiah 2.2-4

Future fulfilment: 'Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key of 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 … so that he should deceive the nations no more … 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 Messiah and shall reign with Him a thousand years.' Revelation 20.1-6 (extracts)

Israel to be saved and blessed of the Lord in the midst of the nations:

Prophecy: 'In that day Israel will be one of three with Egypt and Assyria, a blessing in the midst of the earth, whom the Lord of hosts shall bless saying, "Blessed is Egypt my people and Assyria the work of my hands and Israel my inheritance.' Isaiah 19.24-25

Future fulfilment: '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, quoting Isaiah 59.20.

Following the Millennial reign of Messiah on earth, God to create new heavens and a new earth:

Prophecy: 'For as the new heavens and the new earth which I will make shall remain before me,' says the Lord so shall your descendants and your name remain.' Isaiah 66.22

Future fulfilment: '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 voice from heaven saying, "Behold the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they will be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God." Revelation 21.1-4 (extracts).

For more on this go to our booklet 'Messiah, Israel and the end of days.' https://messiahfactor.com/messiah-israel-and-the-end-of-days/

Conclusion

Just as the first coming prophecies were literally fulfilled, therefore, the Second Coming prophecies will be literally fulfilled. At His Second Coming Jesus will judge the world in righteousness according to how we have responded to the message of His first coming. Jesus / Yeshua is the Messiah who died for our sins at the cross and rose again to give eternal life to all who repent and believe the Gospel. The same Messiah will come again, this time as the Reigning King with all the power of God at His disposal to put right the mess humans have made of the world He gave us to look after. Now is the time to be ready for this coming event. Believe on the Lord Jesus the Messiah and you will be saved!

For more information, send for our book 'The Messiah Factor' and our booklet '10 Signs of the Return of the Messiah.' If you need a Bible, including a Hebrew Bible, we would be happy to send you one.



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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Registered Charity No. 1099651