LIGHT FOR THE LAST DAYS

BOX BM - 4226 London WC1N 3XX

Autumn 2026

The destroyer of nations



The world today is not in a good place. There are many situations threatening the future of humanity. They are coming together to create a scenario which connects directly to the prophecies in the Bible concerning the end times.

In the Hebrew prophet Jeremiah 4.7, written around 600BC, we read: 'The destroyer of nations is on his way. He has gone forth from his place to make your land (or your earth) desolate. Your cities will be laid waste, without inhabitant.'

This verse prophesies the coming destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonian invasion of Judea in 586 BC. We can also see a future application concerning the 'destroyer of nations' being unleashed on our world.

The 'destroyer of nations' reminds us of the words used by Robert Oppenheimer at the first test of the atom bomb in 1945: "Now I am become Death, the destroyer of worlds". As he watched the

Contents

The destroyer of nations 1

They want to DESTROY ISRAEL 12

The Apocalypse in Islam 21

The Rescue Plan 25

mushroom cloud rise up from the nuclear explosion, he used this quote from the Bhagavad Gita to capture the terrifying, awe-inspiring realisation of what he and his team of scientists had done in creating the world's first atomic bomb.

Oppenheimer's quote is from the Hindu writings, however he called the test the 'Trinity Test.' When asked why he used this name, Oppenheimer quoted the English poet John Donne's Sonnet 14, "Batter my heart, three-personed God," pointing to the Christian concept of God as the Trinity (Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit).

John Donne (1572-1631) was a Christian whose poem describes the spiritual battle of the soul seeking release from the power of evil and begging God to use any means to renew him spiritually. He asks God to use 'Your force to break, blow, burn, and make me new.'

So this combination of the destroyer of worlds and the soul seeking deliverance from the power of evil is an appropriate starting point for what I want to share in this edition of our magazine.

The Question and the Answer

In the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 24, Jesus' disciples ask Him the question 'What will be the sign of Your coming and the end of the age?' This question implies two things. Jesus will come again and this age will come to an end in a way that will be recognised by the fulfilment of certain signs. In His answer to the question Jesus gave specific signs of His return, all of which are happening now.

Jesus came the first time to suffer and to die for our sins, laying down His life at the cross and rising again from the dead. Those who repent and believe this message of the Gospel are born again to eternal life, our sins are forgiven and we are reconciled to God. John 3.1-21, 2 Corinthians 5.17-21.

There are two sets of prophecies concerning the Messiah in the Hebrew scriptures. The prophecies of the suffering Messiah were fulfilled in the events of Jesus' first coming recorded in the Gospels. See Psalm 22, Isaiah 53. The prophecies of the reigning King Messiah will be fulfilled at His Second coming. See Isaiah 2 and Zechariah 14.

When He comes the second time this age will come to an end. This event will not be the end of the world but the end of the age (Greek word 'aion' is used in the Gospel). During the present age God communicates with the human race through the message of the Gospel which we have a free choice to accept or reject. When Jesus comes the second time, that time of free will choice will be over. He will come with all the power of Almighty God at His disposal to judge the world in righteousness and separate those who are saved from those who are lost. Mathew 25.31-46.

At the Second Coming the Messiah will set up the Millennium or Messianic kingdom, in which He will reign on earth in person putting right the terrible mess humanity has made of the world God gave us to look after. During this time there will be peace and justice on earth, no more wars and weapons of destruction. The devil will be bound and unable to influence humanity. Revelation 20

Before He comes there will be a time of great trouble on earth. In Matthew 24.4-14 Jesus spoke of an increase in spiritual deception, wars, famines and natural disasters. The Gospel message will go out into the world, but its rejection by many will result in growing persecution of believing Christians, false prophets going out and deceiving people, lawlessness increasing bringing a society without love and natural affection.

The Bible compares this phase to the pains of a woman in labour. When a woman goes into labour in childbirth, the birth pains or contractions begin and become more intense until the birth of the child. Once they have begun, they cannot be reversed.

Once this process has begun it will develop and become more intense the nearer we get to the Great Tribulation period and the return of Jesus Christ. This is how Jesus described this time: "For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened." Matthew 24.21-22. In other words this will be a uniquely serious crisis in the history of the world. Without divine intervention to bring this time to a close it would result in the end of life on earth.

At this time there will be the release of a force described symbolically as Abaddon or Apollyon (Hebrew and Greek words meaning destruction). Abaddon is given the title of the king of the locusts who comes to bring woe to the earth. Revelation 9.1-11. This speaks of the destroyer of nations going forth from his place to make the earth desolate.

This will reach a level of intense trouble unprecedented in human history. We are not there yet, but there are things taking place now which are preparing the way for this time of unique trouble. We now look at some specific examples of things happening now and how these connect to end time prophecy. This is a brief synopsis of a huge amount of information which we have collected. It does not cover every relevant topic for the sake of space.

Wars and rumours of wars

The Bible tells us that in the last days conditions will be as in the days of Noah before the flood (Matthew 24.37) when the earth was filled with violence and every imagination of the heart of man was only evil continually (Genesis 6.5-12).

Jesus said an increase in wars as a sign of the end times: And you will hear of wars and rumours of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. 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 24.6-8.

Nation against nation

The word used for nation in the original Greek is 'ethnos' from which we have

the word ethnic. This implies civil wars between people of different races, tribes, religious affiliations. There are over 130 armed conflicts taking place in the world today, according to the Red Cross. These wars cause destruction to property, food shortages and displacement of people, with resulting refugee problems. We also have conflicts caused by terrorists and drug gangs bringing misery and suffering to multitudes of people. The easy availability of guns and bombs gives evil men the ability to inflict their cruelty on the people.

There is also an ideological war going on seeking to change the values of western society and bring in ideologies hostile to Christianity. In the UK there are people undermining Britain's Christian heritage, identity and culture with the aim of replacing it with a combination of woke cultural Marxism and Islamism. In France there are riots taking place, backed by the far left party La France Insoumise which is encouraging the youth to violence and vandalism, inflicting anarchy on society which risks ending with either chaos or dictatorship.

Kingdom against kingdom

The word used for kingdom is 'basileia', implying blocks of nations confronting each other. Since 1914 the world has seen successive world wars, World War 1 and World War 2, followed by the Cold War. These wars involved much of the world in conflict as powerful blocks of nations faced off against each other. An estimated 130 million to 190 million people died as a result of wars, civil conflicts, and related famines and atrocities during the 20th century.

During the Cold War, the doctrine of Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD) meant that both sides in the conflict knew that the full scale use of nuclear weapons by opposing sides would result in the annihilation of both the attacker and the defender and the possible end of life on earth. This knowledge kept a kind of cold peace during this period and prevented a war using nuclear weapons taking place, as happened in the Cuban missile crisis of 1961.

Following the end of the Cold War in 1991 and the fall of Communism in Russia and eastern Europe, there was a hope that this threat was now over in the so called 'peace dividend'. That hope has now gone as we find ourselves in a kind of World War 3 as western democracies led by USA, Europe and NATO and their allies face off against Russia, China, Iran and North Korea. These conflicts now threaten the wider world. The wars in the Middle East and Ukraine have affected trade and the world economic system.

Missiles and drones and cyber warfare have added a new dimension to warfare. Russia's boasted second most powerful army in the world has been cut to pieces by successful use of drone warfare by Ukraine, causing Russia to lose over a million men and see its oil wealth evaporate as drones destroy its refineries. Some see the development of drone warfare using AI as the next version of the nuclear arms race. Whoever wins this race has the potential to win world power and take control of nations by attacking and destroying their infrastructure.

All of this is pushing the world towards the conflicts prophesied in the Bible for the end of days. In the Book of Revelation chapter 6 the four horsemen of the Apocalypse ride out bringing conquest, war, famine and mass death. The War of Gog and Magog (Ezekiel 38-9) and Armageddon (Revelation 16 and 19 and Joel 3 and Zechariah 12-14) centre on conflicts over the land of Israel that will precede the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

He will then judge the world in righteousness, abolish war and the manufacture of weapons of destruction and create real world peace. Isaiah 2.1-4. He will save all those who trust in Him and destroy 'all who destroy the earth." Revelation 11.18

Will AI wipe out humanity?

According to the Book of Daniel 12.4 at the time of the end 'many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.'

Recent years have seen extraordinary increases in knowledge, through computer technology. Now we have Artificial Intelligence (AI), which is developing so fast that it is already cleverer than its human creators and may soon be able to decide on its own how to use this intelligence. The results could be beneficial, discovering cures for disease and advice on how to solve problems facing humanity. Or they could release catastrophic forces working for our destruction.

A top safety researcher at Anthropic has warned that AI is advancing so quickly he believes there is a greater than 10% chance it "could kill all humans" within the next ten years. As they become smarter than humans, they may devise many ways to do this. Examples given were designing lethal viruses, both biological and computer ones, hacking into sensitive websites and launching devastating cyber attacks. The Chinese AI company Moonshot has given agents instructions on how to create biological weapons and carry out assassinations.

There is now a call to world leaders to regulate this development to prevent rogue AI units escaping human control, acting autonomously and threatening the human race. UN Secretary General Guterres and various UN bodies have called for global governance and oversight for AI. This will not be easy to do as the two leading nations in AI development, USA and China, are in competition to win the race to become top dog in the battle for supremacy over AI. Donald Trump wrote on Truth Social 'WHOEVER WINS AI, WINS! Vladimir Putin once stated that whoever becomes the leader in AI will become the "ruler of the world".

Elon Musk's SpaceX company has applied for approval to launch up to one million orbital AI data centre satellites into low-Earth orbit. It has been given permission for the initial filing for the first 100,000 satellites under the project name 'StarMind'. The idea is to move heavy artificial intelligence (AI) computing workloads into space to bypass earth bound energy and cooling limitations.

There are huge risks in such a project, including littering the skies with

satellites that may crash into each other and cause debris to fall back into the atmosphere. Every time a rocket is launched into space it burns up a bit of the atmosphere and releases black carbon into the stratosphere, adding to the environmental problem.

These developments remind us of the Tower of Babel account in the Bible (Genesis 11) when humanity began to 'build a tower whose top is in the heavens', developing technology for their own pride and influence. God decided to step in and bring an end to the project, saying "Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them."

At the Tower of Babel God saw the potential for humans developing technology without His guidance and using this knowledge in ways that would be harmful. Today we see that our modern Tower of Babel is threatening human survival on the only planet we can live on, this beautiful earth which God gave us the responsibility to look after.

Food, Water and the environment

In 2026 the earth has seen some of its most extreme weather in recorded history. Much of Europe and North America had its driest summer in 200 years, leading to potential failing harvest and food shortages. Forest fires blazed across the continent and water levels in major commercial rivers fell affecting transport and water supplies. East Asia recorded its hottest summers ever, while rivers and aquifers are drying out in the Middle East, particularly in Iran and the Tigris – Euphrates area.

As a result half of the world's food production is threatened, over 2 billion people lack reliable access to safe drinking water. Some rivers are now routinely drying up before they can reach the ocean due to extreme overuse. The United Nations has declared that the world has officially entered a new era of "global water bankruptcy". Many of the world's vital water systems have suffered irreversible damage and can no longer return to their historical baselines

Humans cannot live without water and food. Bible prophecy tells us there will be shortages of both in the end times (Matthew 24, Revelation 6, 8). There will be great heat: "The sun was allowed to scorch people with fire. They were seared by the intense heat." Revelation 16:8-9. In Isaiah 24.4-6 we read: "The earth mourns and withers, the world languishes and withers; the haughty people of the earth languish… the earth is also defiled under its inhabitants..." The Hebrew word used for "defiled" (chaneph) implies being polluted, corrupted, or profaned. "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 connects this condition to human transgression and mismanagement of the earth. "The earth is also defiled under its inhabitants, because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant."

Revelation 8.7-12 describes things happening on earth which bear striking similarity to current environmental problems. Trees and grass are burned up (7), fish die in the sea (9), waters become undrinkable (11) and the light of the sun is blotted out (12). These are future events which come as a result of God's judgment being poured out on the world in the coming time of the Great Tribulation, but it is striking how much they line up with things happening now as a result of human pollution of the environment.

Hope for the Future

The Millennial passages point to a supernatural renewal of the earth under the glorious reign of the Messiah, with waters flowing in the desert (Isaiah 35, Ezekiel 47, Zechariah 14) and the earth being full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea (Isaiah 11). Psalm 72 describes the worldwide reign of the Messiah in which He causes there to be 'an abundance of grain in the earth'.

World economy in crisis

Economists are warning of a coming economic crisis as almost all major nations are in economic difficulty. The global economy is like a giant Ponzi scheme, with money exchanging and being invested on the basis of figures on a computer screen not backed by any real value. This applies particularly to cryptocurrencies. Jesus gave the parable of the house on the rock and the house on the sand (Matthew 5.24-27). When the storm hits the house on the sand, it falls down with a great crash. The world economy is a bit like the house on the sand.

Almost all major economies are in debt with no possibility of paying off the debt. UK debt is £3 trillion, US debt is $40 trillion, China around $15 trillion, France €3.4 trillion. Japan has the highest gross public debt-to-GDP ratio. Germany, the engine of the Euro is in decline.

Ambrose Evans Prichard wrote in the Daily Telegraph. 'The four horsemen of the apocalypse are coming for the global economy. A perfect storm of debt, wars in Iran and Ukraine, extreme weather and the AI bubble threatens disaster.'

The UK is particularly vulnerable as our socialist government makes life difficult for businesses and wealth producers while handing out uncosted and unfunded benefits to those who don't work. Opposition spokesman Jacob Rees Mogg said that as a result the UK bond market is falling over a precipice and the economy will follow.



The USA is the dominant economic power in the world today, with China

coming in second. The USA has an advantage economically due the dollar being the world's reserve currency, as well as the petrodollar system and its control of the SWIFT system of global exchange. Because of this the US can sustain its massive debt and military spending. It can also put countries, banks, or individuals out of the financial system by sanctioning them, as has happened to Russia and Iran.

The BRICS nations, Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, are growing in influence and have now been joined by new members making up 25% of the world's trade. Now 40 more nations in total have expressed interest in joining them, even Mexico, next door to the USA. These nations have looked at the possibility of setting up a rival exchange system to the dollar, based on the New Development Bank in Shanghai, China. If China succeeds in doing this it could break the US economy,

Peter Schiff, an internationally renowned economist, says if this happens it will deliver a death blow to the dollar, taking down its reserve status. President Trump has warned that if the dollar stops being the world's reserve currency, it will be like "losing a world war." In this case the US would be unable to pay its debt, face hyper-inflation and see its status as the world's super power gone. American prophecy commentators foresee a coming economic collapse of America, like the fall of Babylon in Revelation 18.

Wars in Iran and Ukraine

have added to the world's economic problems. Both are cutting off critical supplies from the global economy. This is causing shortages of diesel and gas, as well as by products like helium and sulfuric acid and fertilisers. Shortages are already impacting the world economy in a big way and are likely to get worse if the war is not stopped. Almost everything the modern industrialised world needs relies on free flow and supply of these materials. This includes production of semiconductors needed for the production of all hi tech electronic devices and fertilisers vital for food production.

Threat to Banks

Derivatives are unsecured loans, held by banks estimated at somewhere between $1 and $4 quadrillion dollars. A quadrillion is 1,000,000,000,000,000 (1 followed by 15 zeros). According to the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, four banks hold 87.6% of the total amount of derivatives. These banks are JP Morgan Chase, Goldman Sachs, Citibank, and Bank of America. The failure of just one of those banks will be enough to collapse the US economy and then affect the whole world system.

Solution 666

If that happens the world either descends into chaos or someone comes up with a solution. They're already preparing for this now through the introduction of Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDC) and stablecoins. CBDCs are centralised, digital fiat currency. Stablecoins are digital tokens, somewhat like crypto currencies, given value by the Central Banks. Fiat currency is government-issued money that is not backed by a physical commodity like gold or silver. The currency has no real worth on its own. It depends entirely on the value given it by the issuing government and economy.

To use this system people need a fool proof way to prove their identity. One way to do this is to put everyone on a Digital ID register, using AI to record their details, bank accounts, health records, property holdings and so on. The people in control will then be able to survey your life and check on everything you buy and sell. No ID, Access Denied and you are cut out of the system. Physical cash will be banned so you have no alternative but to use this system.

Prophecy teachers have noted the connection between this process and the Mark of the Beast system in Revelation 13. This will come in gradually in the coming days until at the midpoint of the Tribulation, the Antichrist will make it mandatory for all economic activity: "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 … His number is 666." Revelation 13.16-18.

Lawlessness

"Because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold." Jesus speaking on the signs of His return in Matthew 24.12.

Lawlessness is a condition where there is no regard for the law, or where laws are not enforced, leading to chaos, crime, and disorder as government and law enforcement agencies lose control. In Britain today we see a growing lawlessness, with increase in violence, crime, drug pushing, terrorism, illegal immigration and anti social behaviour. The Internet has introduced new possibilities for lawlessness, online abuse, pornography, cyber crime, frauds and scams involving cryptocurrencies and the like.

There is also a biblical significance in the word 'lawlessness', which is 'anomia' in the original Greek. Anomia means against (a) the nomos (Greek word for law or Torah). So there will be an increase in behaviour that specifically rejects God's law revealed in the Bible, especially the 10 commandments given in Exodus 20. The New Testament speaks about the Law of Christ (Galatians 6:2 and 1 Corinthians 9:21). Keeping this law means we obey God's commands and so show love for others. Breaking these commands leads to a loveless and a wicked society.

"Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not bear false witness," "You shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." Love does no harm to a neighbour; therefore love is the fulfilment of the law." Romans 13.8-10.

Jesus said the greatest commandment in the Torah is this: "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This

is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." Matthew 22.35-40.

In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus takes the Law of Moses one stage further, dealing with the inner attitudes that cause us to either keep or break God's commands. Don't commit adultery, but also don't look at a woman to lust after her (pornography). Don't kill, but also don't nurture hatred in your heart against your brother or sister. Where possible seek reconciliation not revenge. Treat marriage as sacred and binding and keep your vows that you make before God. Keep your word faithfully when you make a commitment before God to do something. Even love your enemies and pray for them.

What happens when people turn away from God and reject His law? The Hebrew prophet Isaiah gives an answer: "Their works are works of iniquity, and the act of violence is in their hands. Their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed innocent blood; their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; wasting and destruction are in their paths. The way of peace they have not known, and there is no justice in their ways. They have made themselves crooked paths; whoever takes that way shall not know peace. … Therefore justice is far from us, nor does righteousness overtake us; We look for light, but there is darkness! …. Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands afar off; For truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter. So truth fails, and he who departs from evil makes himself a prey." Isaiah 59.12-15. Today the government often becomes a source of lawlessness, reversing the role it should play in promoting good behaviour and restraining evil (Romans 13.1-5). In western nations like the UK successive governments have brought in laws that conflict with God's order for family life, promoting easy divorce, homosexuality, transsexuality, abortion on demand and so on. They even penalise those who object to these anti God measures. This is lawlessness.

Communist governments like the former Soviet Union and today's China have laws restricting Christians who want to meet and worship, stopping churches from teaching children under 18 about God, forbidding evangelism outside the church building and restricting what they can teach inside the building. Since the fall of Communism in the Soviet Union, Russia has brought in the Yarovaya Law, which revives many of the old Communist anti Christian laws. This is state sponsored lawlessness.

Islam has an alternative legal system called Sharia which contradicts biblical law in many places. When Islam has power in a nation it discriminates against women's rights and the right of Christians to practice their faith freely. Islamic blasphemy laws threaten anyone who leaves Islam, particularly any Muslim converting to Christianity, with death. From a biblical point of view this too is lawlessness.

Lawlessness leads to an increase in the persecution of Christians worldwide.

This is also a sign of the last days. Jesus said, "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another." Matthew 24.9-10. Roughly 388 million Christians worldwide face high levels of persecution or discrimination for their faith. The highest count of persecuted Christians is in Muslim countries, followed by Communist China and North Korea. See Open Doors World Watch List.

The increase in lawlessness will lead to the coming of the Antichrist, who is also described as the 'lawless one.' According to the book of Daniel, "He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to change times and law." He will change God's law and set up an alternative law that will be based on antichristian principles. Daniel 7.25.

The prophetic Psalm 2 speaks of a time when world rulers will come together in a lawless antichrist world in rebellion against God. "The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying, "Let us break their bonds in pieces and cast away their cords from us." These world rulers are against 'the Lord and His Anointed' (Hebrew Mashiach / Messiah). They break the bonds and cast away the cords. This means they break the laws of God and cast away the restraining influence on evil that comes from keeping God's laws. They behave in a way which is both antichrist and anti 'nomos' or anti Torah. They are lawless. God's response is to laugh at them and hold them in derision (verse 4). He will speak to them in wrath and 'distress them in His deep displeasure'.

Then God says "Yet I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion" (verse 6).

At the Second Coming of Jesus "The kingdoms of this world become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Messiah / Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!" Revelation 11.15.

Then "the government will be upon His shoulder, and His name will be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end" Isaiah 9.6-7.

Then God's law will go out from Jerusalem as the Messiah rules the earth and brings peace and justice to this world. Isaiah 2.1-4.

All these things happening now mean the day of Messiah's return is drawing near. To be ready to meet Him, listen to His first message recorded in the Gospel: "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." Mark 1.15. For more information on how to be ready go to the last article in this magazine, 'The Rescue Plan.' If you don't have a Bible and want to look up the references given in this article, let us know and we will send you one.

IT'S NOT ALL ISRAEL'S FAULT. They want to DESTROY ISRAEL

"For from the top of the rocks I see him, and from the hills I behold him; There! A people dwelling alone, not reckoning itself among the nations." Balaam prophesying over Israel in the Bible in Numbers 23.9.

Israel today stands almost alone against a world that has turned against it. Only Republican America still stands with them and they won't be there forever.



Simon Tov Family murdered by Hamas terrorists in Kibbutz Nir Oz on October 7th.

The current crisis began with the Gaza war. On October 7 2023, Hamas slaughtered around 1,200 men, women, children, and infants in the largest and most brutal massacre of Jews since the Holocaust. Hamas terrorists intentionally recorded their murder, rape, and torture of civilians, and took 251 hostages back with them to Gaza.

Israel responded with military action against Hamas which caused massive destruction and loss of life amongst Palestinians living in Gaza. Images of ruined buildings, weeping mothers and terrified children have been beamed around the world along with reports placing all the blame for the carnage on Israel.

This then became used for a propaganda campaign against Israel. Here in the UK we see a dramatic shift in opinion with open hostility to Israel and to the British Jewish community in ways which are shameful to our once tolerant nation. Many Jewish people are wondering if they have a future in this country. Demonstrations have taken place with masses of people chanting 'From the River to the Sea Palestine must be free.' This means the replacement of Israel with a Palestinian State from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea (in other words no Israel). There have been calls to 'globalise the Intifada' and turn it into a world wide movement seeking the violent destruction of Israel.

The Church of England's governing body, the General Synod, accepted a document called 'Kairos' which puts all the blame for the suffering of the Palestinians on Israel which it brands a "colonial, settler and exclusionary entity", accusing it of genocide.

At the Labour Party conference Foreign Secretary Ed Miliband made an impassioned attack on Israel accusing it of settler violence, war crimes in Gaza and illegal occupation of Palestine. The Green Party has now voted in favour of the resolution 'Zionism is Racism.'

Israeli PM Netanyahu made a powerful defence of Israel in his UN speech on the 24th September. He said that Israel is facing an enemy that seeks to destroy it and has no choice but to defend itself. He said:

'While Hamas did everything possible to keep Palestinian civilians in harm's way, often at gunpoint, Israel did everything possible to get them out of harm's way. We sent millions of text messages warning civilians to leave combat areas. We made millions of phone calls. We dropped millions of leaflets. I want to ask you some questions. What genocidal regime gives a million polio vaccinations to the enemy's population? What genocidal regime enables the distribution of two million tons of food into Gaza? That's a ton for every person. Accusing Israel of genocide is the greatest lie of the century.'

Responding to the accusation of settler violence Netanyahu said, 'Every day, the terrorists try to murder our people, and in particular, they try to murder our people in Judea. There are thousands of attempts per year against peaceful families driving along the roads. They shoot at pregnant women. They shoot entire families. Of course, none of this is covered in the international press or on social media. What they cover is a handful of Israeli juvenile delinquents, about 150 in number, who throw stones, chop down olive trees and occasionally set fires. I can't stand that. We're a country of law, so we put our Shin Bet on them.'

Netanyahu accused the anti Zionists of having nothing to say about the 1000 missiles that Iran has rained down on Israeli civilians, the vast network of tunnels that Hamas placed under homes and schools and hospitals to store missiles in and Hezbollah's arsenal of 150,000 ballistic missiles and rockets, all aimed at Israeli civilians, now mostly destroyed thanks to IDF action in Lebanon.

Iran's proxies, Hezbollah and Hamas, have oppressed and brought nothing but trouble to their own people. They have stolen large amounts of aid sent in during the war. Their leaders live in luxury in Qatar and Turkey while directing terror on the ground in Gaza. Hamas crushes any opposition to its terror regime and would probably eliminate our left wing pro Hamas supporters (who also want gay rights) if they were living in Gaza.

Hezbollah and Islamic militants have turned Lebanon, once a prosperous Arab country with a functioning democracy, into a failed state oppressed by terrorists. Lebanon's troubles began when the PLO was kicked out of Jordan after 'Black September' when they tried to overthrow the Jordanian regime in 1970. They then went into southern Lebanon and brutally oppressed the local mainly Christian Arab population. Then Hezbollah supported by the Iranian Shiite regime brought Islamic terror and

missiles into Lebanon provoking the wars with Israel and bringing more trouble to Lebanon. The Iranian regime has murdered thousands of its own people for protesting and demanding the right to be free from its oppressive and corrupt version of Islam. What do all the protesters against Israel have to say about this? Nothing.

So is it all Israel's fault?

Here is some background information to all this. Hamas makes no secret of its ultimate goal, the destruction of Israel. Its charter quotes Hassan al-Banna, the founder of the Muslim Brotherhood who said, "Israel will exist and will continue to exist until Islam will obliterate it, just as it obliterated others before it" (Preamble to Hamas Charter).

Hamas Charter sees all the territory of Palestine as exclusive to Muslims, denies the right for a Jewish state on "any part" of the land (including Tel Aviv and the coastal strip) and promotes the idea that 'the liberation of Palestine' (by which it means the destruction of Israel) is the 'duty of every Muslim wherever he may be'. (Article 13). Hamas Charter quotes an Islamic hadith that calls for Muslims to kill the Jews: 'The hour of judgment shall not come until the Muslims fight the Jews and kill them, and each tree and stone will say: 'Oh Muslim, oh servant of Allah, there is a Jew behind me, come and kill him''

To understand what Israel is up against you have to understand something about fundamentalist Islam. This divides the world into the Dar al Islam (House of Islam) and the Dar al Harb (House of the enemy).

The Dar al Harb means areas of the world ruled by 'infidels' - non Muslims. Muslims living In the Dar al Harb should work for conversion of that society into an Islamic one by jihad, immigration and conversion of 'infidels' to Islam.

In the Dar al Islam Muslims must rule in a society governed by Sharia law. Pagans should convert to Islam, while Jews and Christians may continue to have their communities as 'People of the Book', but classed as 'dhimmis', so called protected people, second class citizens who have to pay a tax (jizya) to the Muslims for their protection. This is a form of exploitation that discriminates against non-Muslim minorities.

Any territory which has been ruled by Muslims should remain Islamic until the judgment day. If it ceases to be ruled by Muslims it must be returned to Islamic rule by jihad. Hamas says in its charter that 'the land of Palestine is an Islamic possession to be held by Muslims until Judgment Day.' Therefore Muslims have the right to make war against Israeli Jews who rule in areas they call the House of Islam. Jews do not have the right to defend themselves against such attacks.

It is not just Hamas who says this. In the Palestinian National Covenant of the PLO we read: 'In the Palestinian State only Jews who lived in Palestine before 1917 will be recognised as citizens. (Article 6). Only Palestinian Arabs possess the right of self-determination and the whole country belongs to them. .. Any solution which does not involve the total liberation of the country is rejected. This aim cannot be achieved politically, it can only be accomplished militarily …'Warfare against Israel is legal, whereas Israel's self defence is illegal.' (Articles 3, 6,18, 21 and 22).

By this logic most Israelis must be expelled from the land, Israel must disband the IDF (Israel Defence Force) and submit to Islamic forces who (in theory) then protect Jewish communities living in the land.

What about the Palestinian State?

When the PLO signed the Oslo Accords, they made a gesture of removing these items from their covenant, but if you follow the policies of the Palestinian Authority and the propaganda they feed to their children and population it looks like this is still their aim.

Britain's Labour government, most of Europe and the UN support the 'two state solution'. This means the establishment of a Palestinian State as the only solution to the conflict. From a simplistic view this would seem to be a reasonable conclusion. Divide up the land and let the Arabs run one part and the Jews run the other part. However the current Israeli government has rejected the establishment of a Palestinian state as part of a two-state solution, passing a resolution to this effect in July 2024. There is a reason for this.

In 1993 and 2000, Israeli governments participated in negotiations with the PLO under the Oslo Accords aimed at achieving a settlement. In 2000 US President Clinton and Israeli Prime Minister Barak offered Arafat a plan that included a Palestinian state in the Gaza Strip and most of the West Bank, with a capital in East Jerusalem. He rejected this offer. President Bill Clinton and Ehud Barak maintained that Israel offered a generous, historic peace deal, offering around 96% of what the Palestinians were asking for and that Arafat walked away from it because he was unwilling or unable to make the final historic compromise for peace. History does not favour the Palestinian State being a peaceful one. Israel pulled out of Gaza and handed it over to the Palestinians in 2005. Hamas took over in 2007 and turned it into an armed camp with missiles which it fired at Israel. In 2023 it conducted the worst massacre of Jews since the Holocaust. Would the Palestinian Authority (PA) do the same? They say they would not, but most Israelis don't believe them. The PA offers a reward to terrorists who succeed in killing Jews with its so called 'pay for slay' policy. The Israeli organisation Palestinian Media Watch monitors the PA's press and propaganda with evidence that they too want to destroy Israel.

Back in 1974 the Palestine Liberation

Organisation (PLO) drew up the 10 Points Phased Plan proposed by Yasser Arafat. The plan was to set up a Palestinian entity in any area Israel chose to withdraw from then use that territory as a base from which to confront Israel. Arafat later admitted that the Oslo Accords signed between the PLO and the Israeli government in 1993 was the first stage in this process. He implied the Arabs would be free to break the agreement when the time was right, comparing it with the truce of Hudabiyah.

This was a treaty which Muhammad made with the Jewish Kuraish tribe at Khaybar at the beginning of the Muslim conquest of Arabia. Muhammad then abandoned the treaty, defeated the Kuraish, subjected them to taxation (jizya) before they were completely expelled from the region. The chant "Khaybar, Khaybar, O Jews, the army of Muhammad will return" is frequently heard at anti-Israel and pro-Palestinian demonstrations. Those who use it invoke the Islamic victory over a Jewish community as a warning or threat of future defeat for Jews and the state of Israel. They want to destroy Israel.

Israel and Bible prophecy

There are many scriptures which speak of such a crisis happening in the last days of this age. Nations will try to destroy Israel, but Israel will remain until the return of the Messiah. When He comes He will save Israel and the world from destruction. This whole scenario is written in the Bible and goes back in time nearly 4000 years.

In Genesis 15 we read how God made a covenant with Abraham concerning his descendants and his relationship to the land. In Genesis 17 this is spelled out in these words. "And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you. Also I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession; and I will be their God." Genesis 17.7-8.

According to this covenant, Abraham would have a multitude of descendants through his son Isaac and grandson Jacob, to whom would be given the title deeds of ownership of the promised land. Genesis 15.

The concept of covenant was enlarged after God gave the Torah through Moses at Sinai (Exodus 20-24). The Israelites accepted this covenant after Moses read to them the words of God. "Then Moses took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that the Lord has said we will do, and be obedient." And Moses took the blood, sprinkled it on the people, and said, "This is the blood of the covenant which the Lord has made with you according to all these words." Exodus 24.1-8.

In Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28 God promises to bless the people in the land if they keep the covenant and obey the words of God but also warns of judgement coming upon them if they break the covenant and disobey the LORD. The final judgement would be removal from the land. "If you do not obey Me, but walk contrary to Me … I will scatter you among the nations and draw out a sword after you; your land shall be desolate and your cities waste." Leviticus 26.27-33. The scattering would not be permanent. All the scriptures which warn of scattering also promise a regathering in God's time. Deuteronomy 30, Jeremiah 29.

Jesus also warned of a coming time of dispersion from the land following the siege and destruction of Jerusalem which happened in 70 AD. He related this to a failure by the religious establishment to recognise Him as the Messiah: "For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation." Luke 19.44.

Jesus prophesied both the coming destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD and its restoration in the last days of this age. Matthew 23.39 and Luke 21.24.

The Hebrew prophets indicate that the restoration of Israel will be in two phases, the first physical and the second spiritual. This is prophesied in Ezekiel 36.24-28. "For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land. Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them. Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God."

We are now in the first stage of this process. First there has been a physical birth, the restoration of the land, rebuilding ancient cities, reclaiming the land that was desolate so that it becomes a fertile productive land (Ezekiel 36, Isaiah 35.1-2). Then there will be a spiritual rebirth as the LORD gives the people a new heart and a new spirit and the dry bones of Ezekiel's vision come to life in the spirit (Ezekiel 36-37).

A new heart and a new spirit are the result of the spiritual rebirth that Jesus spoke of when he talked to Nicodemus, 'the teacher of Israel', and told him "You must be born again." John 3.5-8. Being born again is the result of repentance and faith in Jesus as the Messiah, Saviour and LORD.

Israel's rebirth in the end times will come through a time of trouble. In

Psalm 83 we read of words which have more or less been spoken literally by the enemies of Israel since the founding of the state in 1948: "Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation, that the name of Israel may be remembered no more." … "Let us take for ourselves the pastures of God for a possession." Psalm 83.1-12.

Every time Arab armies have tried to do this by invading Israel they have been defeated, in wars which were extraordinary in their nature and result. Israel held off and pushed back armies larger and stronger than theirs in 1948, 1967 and 1973. Following the Six Day War in 1967 Israel took control of the Old City of Jerusalem and Judea Samaria (the West Bank), the heartland of biblical Israel.

That victory was seen by some Christians as the fulfilment of Jesus' words "Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled." It was certainly a movement in the direction of that prophecy being fulfilled, although the final conclusion of the 'times of the Gentiles' will be the return of the Messiah bringing an end to the Gentile domination of Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is considered the holy place for three world faiths. It is the site of the Dome of the Rock and the Al Aqsa Mosque, considered the third holiest place for Muslims after Mecca and Medina.

For Jews it is the holiest place in the world, the site of the Jewish Temple (now destroyed) and the Western Wall where Jewish people gather to pray. When the Israelis took the Old City of Jerusalem in 1967, General Moshe Dayan said, 'We have returned to our holiest places, never again to depart.'



Jerusalem

For Christians Jerusalem is the most significant biblical place being the site of the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. It is also the city where God says He has put His name: "In this house, and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all tribes of Israel, will I put my name for ever." 2 Kings 21.7.

The prophecy of Zechariah given in around 480 BC indicates that Jerusalem will be centre stage in world events in the last days: "The burden of the word of the Lord against Israel. Thus says the Lord, who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man within him: '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 12.1-3.

This means that there will be a controversy over who rules Jerusalem in the last days which will involve the surrounding peoples (Arab and Muslim nations surrounding Israel) and all nations of the earth (the UN and all nations, including UK EU, USA). This will lead to the final wars of Gog and Magog (Ezekiel 38-9) and Armageddon (Revelation 16 and 19, Joel 3, Zechariah 12-14). At the time of the final battle the Messiah will return to the Mount of Olives on the east side of Jerusalem and pronounce the end of the war and the end of the times of the Gentiles and set up His rule from restored and revived Jerusalem. Zechariah 14.1-9.

The time of Jacob's trouble

Before this happens there will be the time of trouble centring on the land of Israel. This is prophesied in Jeremiah 30, also Matthew 24 and Revelation 12. Jeremiah tells us specifically that this will happen after the return of the Jewish people to Israel (30.1-3) at the time of 'acherit ha yamim', the last days of this age (30.24)

"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." Jeremiah 30.1-7.

The time of trouble corresponds to passages in the New Testament, particularly Matthew 24, where Jesus speaks of conditions on earth before His return: "For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened."

Jeremiah tells us that God will bring back His people from the lands they have been scattered to and rescue them from their enemies. At the same time, He will be seeking to correct something that Israel has got wrong.

"'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.'" Jeremiah 30.10-11.

The historic mistake the majority of the Jewish people have made is not to recognise Yeshua / Jesus as the Messiah. Jesus said that the reason for the fall of Jerusalem in the year 70 and the subsequent dispersion of the Jewish people into the nations was, "because you did not know the time of your visitation." Luke 19.41-44. In other words, the destruction of Jerusalem was allowed by God because of a failure by the religious leadership to recognise Jesus as Messiah (the time of your visitation). We should also note that many Jews did accept Jesus as Messiah, as recorded in the Gospels and the Book of Acts, and the message of

the Gospel was spread by the Jewish disciples of Jesus to the Gentiles. The prophets reveal that there is a day coming when large numbers of Jewish people will accept Jesus / Yeshua as the Messiah as they look to Him for salvation. "And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn." Zechariah 12.10. Today there are a growing number of Jewish people who do accept Yeshua as the Messiah. There are congregations of such believers throughout the land of Israel.

Jesus also indicated that this will be a sign of His return when He said to Jerusalem, "'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!'" Matthew 23.37-39.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD (Baruch ha ba be shem Adonai) is the traditional greeting for the coming of the Messiah. So Jesus is saying here that He will return and be seen by the remnant of Israel as they recognise Him as the promised Messiah.

Yeshua is this Messiah. He is the one who will bring the final peace to Israel and the Arab world.

"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.

"In that day there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrian will come into Egypt and the Egyptian into Assyria, and the Egyptians will serve with the Assyrians. 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 19.23-25.



All our booklets mailed to you for : £2 plus postage.
enquiries@lightforthelastdays.co.uk

The Apocalypse in Islam

Does Islam have anything to say about this?

The Qur'an acknowledges the historical connection of the Children of Israel to the Land of Israel. Surah Al-Ma'idah (5:21) says, "O my people, (Children of Israel) enter the Holy Land which Allah has assigned to you and do not turn back and [thus] become losers.' See also Surah Al-A'raf (7:137). There are some Muslims today who see the place of Israel as a Jewish state, but they are a tiny minority amidst the overwhelming majority who are against Israel for the reasons already stated in the previous article.

There are sayings attributed to Muhammad called the hadith. These were written down many years after his death. They mirror the Christian version of the end times, but change its meaning and most of the details.

According to the hadith, the final great apocalyptic war, Al-Malhama al-Kubra (comparable to Armageddon), is prophesied to begin in Dabiq, Syria before moving to its climax in Jerusalem. Sahih Muslim 2897. This war will be between the true believers in Islam and a false messiah called Al-Masih ad-Dajjal. He will be defeated by the Imam Mahdi and Isa-al-Masih, the Muslim Jesus.

The Dajjal

is the equivalent of the Christian Antichrist, a false Messiah who appears in the end times as a supreme deceiver, imitating the true Messiah (Isa) and leading people away from the worship of Allah. He has a mark on his forehead. The Arabic letters K-F-R (which spell Kafir, meaning "disbeliever" or "infidel") will be written between his eyes. The Prophet stated that every true believer will be able to read this mark clearly. Sunan Ibn Majah Hadith 4077. There is a connection here to Revelation 13 and the Mark of the Beast. He is also said to be blind in one eye. This is another biblical connection. Zechariah 11.17 prophesies the 'idol shepherd' whose 'right eye shall be utterly darkened.'

The Dajjal is prophesied to emerge from the East, from a region between Syria and Iraq, or from Khorasan (an area encompassing parts of modern-day Iran and Afghanistan). He will travel the earth at an incredible speed, described as "a cloud driven by the wind", and conquer every city on earth within 40 days. Hadith 4072. Compare this with the first of the four horsemen of the Apocalypse, the rider on the white horse, who goes forth 'conquering and to conquer', then unleashes war, famine and mass death (Revelation 6.1-8).

The Mahdi, "The Guided One"

, is a title given to a prophesied leader, who will appear in the end times to rid the world of injustice and tyranny. There are different versions of the Mahdi story between Sunni and Shiite Muslims. Both believe he will prepare the way for the return of the Islamic Jesus (Isa) acting as his deputy in the final battle.

The Mahdi appears first to unite the believers and lead them through the initial trials of the Antichrist (Dajjal). Then Isa (Islamic Jesus) physically returns to Earth, descending from the minaret in Damascus to join forces with the Mahdi. They defeat the Dajjal and establish the final golden age of peace. Sunan Ibn Majah 4077.

Isa – al – Masih

The Islamic Jesus is fundamentally different from the Lord Jesus Christ revealed in the Bible. According to Islam, Isa / Jesus is a prophet and messenger of God. He is a human being, uniquely created, but not divine. He was not crucified or killed. God made someone else look like him. This other one was put on the cross, and Isa was raised alive and taken to heaven without dying. Sura an Nisa 4.157. This teaching takes out the heart of the Gospel, meaning that Jesus did not die for our sins or rise again from the dead. This Isa will return as a just ruler and follower of Muhammad at the end of days. He will defeat the Dajjal, live a normal life, marry, and eventually die a natural death.

Yajuj and Majuj (Gog and Magog)

After the defeat of the Dajjal a vast horde of evildoers known as Yajuj and Majuj (Gog and Magog) are released on the world. Yajuj and Majuj shoot arrows into the sky boasting that they have conquered both earth and heaven, and lay siege to the believers. Isa and the believers will pray to God for deliverance. In response, God will send a plague of worms that will infect Yajuj and Majuj, killing the entire horde simultaneously overnight. The earth will be covered in their bodies, creating a terrible stench. Isa will pray again, and God will send giant birds to carry the bodies away, followed by a massive, torrential rain that will wash the entire earth clean, leaving it fertile and peaceful once more. Sahih Muslim 2937a and Sunan ibn Majah 4075.

The Golden Age

After this final cosmic cleansing of the earth, the golden age takes place. Islamic texts describe an era of absolute utopian peace and prosperity under the rule of Isa. There is no more envy or hatred, a superabundance of wealth as the earth becomes incredibly fertile. Even wild animals will live in harmony, lions will graze with camels, leopards with cattle, and children will play with venomous snakes without harm. Isa will rule justly by Islamic law, all other religions than Islam will be banned, and there will be absolute global unity in the worship of one God, Allah. Isa will break the cross meaning the end of Christianity. Musnad Ahmed 9349, Sahih Muslim 155.

According to the texts, Isa will live out the rest of his natural life during this peaceful era—ruling for approximately 40 years—before he dies and is buried in Medina. Sunan Abi Dawud 4324 This is essentially an altered and corrupted version of end time Bible prophecy, adapted for Muslims. Let us look at what the Bible says about these things.

The Dajjal / the Antichrist

The Bible prophesies a world leader who will bring great evil on the world in the final period of history before the return of Jesus Christ. He is given a number of titles – the Beast, the Man of Sin, the Lawless one, the Antichrist.

He will be given power by the devil. He will speak blasphemies against God. He will make war with the saints (persecute true believers in Jesus). He will be aided by a second beast known as the False Prophet, a kind of propaganda chief for the Beast, who will cause people to submit to an act of gross idolatry. Submission to this false religion will determine whether people can buy or sell, in other words whether they can participate in society (the Mark of the Beast). Revelation 13.

When He returns Jesus Christ will destroy the Antichrist and the False Prophet and throw them straight into hell, before commencing His rule of peace and justice on earth. (Daniel 7, Revelation 13 and 19). Satan will be bound and unable to deceive the nations any more during this time (Revelation 20). According to 1 John 2 and 4 the Antichrist will be preceded by 'many antichrists' who will deny the relationship between the Father and the Son (in other words deny the divine nature of the LORD Jesus) and deny that He has 'come in the flesh' (that He is fully human as Son of Man as well as Son of God).

2 Thessalonians 2 tells us that this one exalts himself against the true God and demands that people submit to him in a false form of worship. He is described as the lawless one who will be destroyed by the LORD at His second coming (v 8). God will send a strong delusion on all who accept him, causing them to 'believe the lie'. At His Second Coming Jesus will consume the lawless one with the breath of his mouth and destroy him with the brightness of His coming. 2 Thessalonians 2.8. Jesus will return in person to the Mount of Olives on the east of Jerusalem, not to the minaret in Damascus. Zechariah 14, Acts 1.

Yajuj and Majuj / Gog and Magog. Armageddon and the Last War

There is a clear connection between the Islamic view of Yajuj and Majuj and the biblical prophecy of Gog and Magog found in Ezekiel 38-39. In Ezekiel Gog and Magog refers to an army that comes against Israel in the latter days. The leader of the army comes from the north, either Russia or Turkey. The alliance is made up of various countries, many of which are Islamic countries hostile to Israel today (including Togramah, Turkey and Persia, Iran). Ezekiel 38.1-9

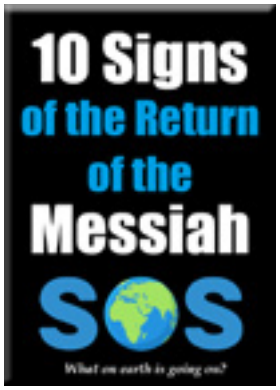
The army comes from the north against the people of Israel who have been gathered on the mountains of Israel in the latter days of this age. (38.10-13) God will intervene and defeat this army with supernatural events taking place. The text describes a great earthquake, pestilence and bloodshed, flooding rain, great hailstones, fire and brimstone, destroying the army on the mountains of Israel. (38.18-39.8). People will go out for seven months cleansing the land and burying the dead of those slain in the war. (39.11-16). After this the Holy Spirit will be poured out on the survivors of Israel who will be restored and settled in safety in the land. (39.21-29).

Zechariah 12-14 describes a battle, centring on Jerusalem, involving the surrounding nations and the whole world. (Zechariah 12.1-3). The armies will gather at Jerusalem to be destroyed by the Lord at His coming. The Lord will then stand physically on the Mount of Olives and bring an end to the war (14.1-5). He sets up the Messianic kingdom reigning with power from Jerusalem over a restored Israel and the world at peace, populated by the saved survivors of the last days' time of trouble. Only those who accept Yeshua as the Messiah will go into the Messianic kingdom period. Zechariah 14.9-21, Isaiah 2.1-4, 11, 65, Ezekiel 40-48.

Revelation 16.12-16 describes the armies being summoned by the devil for the last battle at Armageddon. Jesus will return this time as King of kings and Lord of lords, with all power of God to defeat the powers of darkness, the devil, the antichrist and the false prophet. He will return to Jerusalem, bring the final restoration of the Jewish people to the land and to the Lord, cause the Temple to be rebuilt in restored Jerusalem, and rule the world with peace and justice in the period known as the Millennium or Messianic Kingdom. Ezekiel 40-48. Isaiah 2, 11.

During the 1000 years of His rule on earth, there will be an end to war and conflict, no more armies or weapons production, plenty of food, restoration of nature and the animal kingdom living in harmony (the lion and the lamb, the little child playing over the snakes' den). The earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea – Isaiah 11.6-9). Only one God will be worshipped, the Creator God of the Bible, the Lord, revealed in Yeshua the Messiah. Psalm 72, Isaiah 2, 11, Zechariah 14.

He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly." Amen. Even so, come, LORD Jesus! The grace of our LORD Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.



The Rescue Plan



Our first article outlines some of the things that are going badly wrong with our country and our world. Problems are growing and none of our leaders are coming up with answers. No one has a solution that works. It's like we're trying to operate a very complex machine, but we've lost the instructions and we don't know what to do about it.

We need to get back to our Maker's instructions. He has given us these in the Bible, but sadly we don't keep the commands He has given us for our welfare. As a result our world is in a mess and many of our lives are not in a good place either.

The situation is urgent because the signs of the times given in the Bible tell us that we are living in the last days before the return of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. In the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 24, Jesus' disciples asked Him 'What will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?' Jesus spoke of these things happening.

• False prophets leading people astray with deceptive messages about how to find God and how to live our lives.
Matthew 24.4-5, 11, 23-24.

• Increase in wars, famines, earthquakes (natural disasters) Matthew 24.7

• Lawlessness leading to a society without compassion and natural affection. 24.12

• The Gospel message of salvation through Jesus Christ going out into the world, amidst persecution of true believers. Matthew 24.9, 14.

In the Gospel of Luke we read that there will be events taking place to cause people to be afraid of what is coming on 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." Luke 21.25-26

The phrase used for 'distress of nations with perplexity' in the original Greek is 'aporia.' This means no way out. In other words at the end of the age the people on earth will face a crisis situation with no human solution available. At this point God will

intervene through the return of Jesus Christ: "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 21.27-28.

So there is a way out, but only available to those who believe the Gospel and put their trust in Jesus Christ.

The Rescue Plan – Part 1

God's rescue plan revolves around the person of Jesus Christ, Yeshua the Messiah, to give Him His Hebrew name. The Lord Jesus came the first time to fulfil the first part of the rescue plan. This is how it works.

God tells us that He is holy and just. We are not. God's holiness and our sin cannot co-exist. If we want to have fellowship with God something has to happen to deal with our sin problem. All the bad things that are happening on earth today are caused by the sin problem in humans.

God has given us His Law to live by, the 10 commandments written in Exodus 20. Jesus summed up the Law as given in the Hebrew Bible by saying, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like this: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' On these commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." Matthew 22.37-40.

In the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) Jesus told His followers to deal with the thought life that causes us to sin. We should deal with lustful thoughts, hatred, desire for revenge. Jesus taught us to pray to God as our Father in heaven, praying for His will to be done on earth and in our personal lives. We ask Him to forgive our sins as we forgive those who have sinned against us. We ask Him to give us strength to resist the temptations of the evil one. Matthew 6.1-15. In the Sermon on the Mount the standard given for acceptance by God is perfection, 100% righteousness. Matthew 5.48 says "Be perfect as your Father in heaven is perfect."

If that is the standard then we all fail. The sin problem affects every person on the earth, including those who think they are religious. The Bible says "There is not a just man on earth who does good and does not sin." Ecclesiastes 7.20. "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God". Romans 3.23.

So we need a Saviour who is perfect and who has paid the price of our imperfection (sin) in order to reconcile us to God. That Saviour is Jesus.

The first message given by Jesus is "The time is fulfilled, the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe the Gospel." Mark 1.15. Repent in Hebrew is 'teshuva' meaning change our direction. We are going away from God, now we turn around and go towards God. In Greek it is 'metanoia' meaning change our mind about God so that His thoughts are our thoughts and His ways are our ways. Isaiah 55.8-9.

Just believing in God is not enough. The letter of James says "You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!" James 2.19. We need to believe the Gospel message. This tells us that we need our sins to be covered so that we can know we are forgiven and have peace with God. Under the covenant with Moses in the Old Testament the Israelites needed to offer a sacrifice to God. This involved offering a literal sacrifice of an animal, usually a sheep or a goat, in order to cover sin. The animal became the innocent victim paying the price of the guilty one making the offering. Leviticus 17.11 tells us "The life of the flesh is in the blood. It is the blood that makes atonement for the soul."

When the LORD Jesus came as the promised Messiah He lived a sinless life, doing good, teaching us the truth about the kingdom of God, performing mighty miracles to demonstrate that He is the Son of God. He then became the final offering for the sin of the world, shedding His blood to the point of death. He became the innocent victim paying the price for the guilt of all humankind. "Messiah died for our sins according to the Scriptures. He was buried and rose again the third day according to the Scriptures." 1 Corinthians 15.3-4.

The Hebrew Prophet Isaiah prophesied these events centuries before they happened, giving the reason for them happening: "All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned every one to his own way and the LORD has laid on Him (Messiah) the iniquity of us all." Isaiah 53.6. Paul summed this up by saying "God made Him (Jesus the Messiah) who knew no sin to become sin for us that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." 2 Corinthians 5.21. There is only one way to God and there is no other name than the name of Jesus by which we can

be saved from His judgement. Acts 4.12. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14.6.

We have to remember that it is God who sets the rules and not us. We may strongly believe many things and be very sincere in our beliefs, but our sincerity will not make us right with God if we sincerely believe something which is not true. God is not interested in my truth or your truth. Only His truth. And the Bible tells us that God's word is the truth, also that Jesus Himself is the truth.

Through faith in Jesus we can come to know God's mercy, love and forgiveness. He is the final sacrifice for sin, able to redeem all who put their trust in Him. We can take this offer or leave it, but we can't change its terms of acceptance because they have already been set by God and He does not change.

The Rescue Plan – Part 2

The second part of the Rescue Plan involves the second coming of Jesus Christ. This time He will come in a completely different form from the way He came the first time. At His first coming He came in humility with His glory veiled (hidden). He fulfilled the prophecy of the Suffering Servant Messiah of Isaiah 53, dying as a sacrifice for the sin of the world, and rising again from the dead. He appeared to His followers over a period of 40 days before ascending to heaven. As He departed into heaven the angel told the disciples: "This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven." Acts 1.9-11

The first stage of His return will be the event known as the rapture of the church, when those who are alive at the time of the Second Coming will be supernaturally removed from the earth to meet with the Lord. "For this we say to you by the word of the LORD, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the LORD will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the LORD Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the LORD in the air. And thus we shall always be with the LORD. Therefore comfort one another with these words." 1 Thessalonians 4.15-18. See also John 14.3 and Matthew 24.36-44.

There is a lot of scepticism about this subject in Christian circles, but the Lord says it is going to happen, so I am happy to accept what He says. There are also endless arguments about whether it comes before, in the middle or at the end of the Great Tribulation period. My belief is that it will happen before the tribulation, but I recognise that other people have reasons to believe differently. It happens as a result of the sovereign will of God and there is nothing we can do to influence when it will happen. Whenever it happens the believer should be ready to meet the LORD and be ready to suffer if need be for the faith. We should also use the time that remains to spread the message of the Lord and encourage non believers to accept salvation through Jesus Christ.

In Matthew 24 Jesus told us to be ready at all times for this event. "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left. Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect." Matthew 24.36-44.

After this the Lord Jesus will then return to the earth at a time of great trouble as the armies gather for the last battle. Zechariah 14, Revelation 20. He will come with all the power of God with a mighty army of angels and the redeemed saints in new resurrection bodies. He will destroy the armies of the Beast and the False Prophet and bring an end to the war. Revelation 19. He will then regather the remnant of the Jewish people, cause the Temple to be rebuilt in Jerusalem and rule the world with peace and justice. Isaiah 2.1-4, Isaiah 11, Ezekiel 40-48. During this time Satan will be bound in the abyss and no longer able to deceive the nations. Revelation 20.1-3.

He will take over the government of the world. Isaiah 9.6, Revelation 11.15. He will have absolute power, bringing in a benevolent world government in which there will be no more crime, weapons of war,

pornography, abuse of women and children, drug or alcohol abuse, enslavement of the poor and so on. The earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD. Even the animal kingdom will be changed with animals like the lion and the wolf no longer carnivorous and fierce, but dwelling peaceably with gentle animals like the lamb. Isaiah 2.1-14, 11.1-9. There will be changes in nature as deserts become fertile places fed by rivers flowing in the revived earth. Plenty of food will be grown all over the world. Isaiah 35, Psalm 72.

This age known as the Millennium or the Messianic Kingdom age will be the result of the biggest supernatural intervention of God into human affairs since the beginning of time. It means that God will take back control of the planet and the devil will be kicked out of his present position as 'ruler of this world darkness.' There will be a big population increase as saved survivors of the tribulation period will go into the Millennial kingdom and have children in the normal way. Life expectancy will be greatly increased, in a world without war, famine and crime. Good nourishing food will be available for all. Only one God will be worshipped through Jesus the Messiah.

There will be a day of judgement to separate those who are saved from those who are lost. Our final destination is described in the Book of Revelation:

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

Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said [b]to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."

And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife." And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal. ...

But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honour into it. Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). And they shall bring the glory and the honour of the nations into it. But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life." Revelation 21.1-11, 22-27.

It requires faith to believe all this. But it is faith that has been tried and tested by millions of people before us and millions more now living on earth who have discovered that the Bible is true and the Jesus really is the one way to know the living God and that He really is returning.

To receive this faith, you must be willing to step outside your comfort zone and leave behind the doctrines of this doomed world with all its failed philosophies and empty religious rituals. These don't bring you one step nearer to knowing the truth about God. He loves you and has a glorious future ahead for you if you will come to Him now and put your trust in Jesus the Messiah who gave His life in order to redeem you to God. There is a heaven to gain and a hell to shun.

"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.

God's Rescue Plan really works. "Believe on the LORD Jesus Christ, and you will be saved." Acts 16.31.

Finally, you don't have to wait to the Second Coming to accept Jesus as Saviour and Lord. Save yourself a lot of trouble and do it now.

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.

For further information, please write to:

Tony Pearce,
Light for the Last Days,
Box BM - 4226, London, WC1N 3XX

Email: enquiries@lightforthelastdays.co.uk

Website: http://www.lightforthelastdays.co.uk

Registered Charity No. 1099651