



PROPHECY UPDATE 2024 CONVERGENCE! PART 1

Here we are, on the eve of a new year and as we look back on 2024, what a year it has been.



And when I say that I am not talking about political issues or economic issues, even though they do play a role in what is going on. What I am speaking of is the amount of Bible prophecy we see happening in our lives!

That is why I have called our study this evening – ***CONVERGENCE!***

What this word means is this. It is when two or more things come together to form a new whole, like the convergence of plum and apricot genes in the plucoat.

Convergence comes from the prefix ***con***, meaning ***together***, and the verb ***verge***, which means to ***turn toward***.

There are many prophecies in the Bible. But what we see happening today is that these prophecies are coming together.



Let me give you an example of the past and then we will look at the present.

Back on May 14, 1948, Israel became a nation. I truly believe that was the starting point of things beginning to speed up in regard to Bible prophecy coming to pass.



Granted it was very slow back then. Even when I first got saved, back in the early 1980's, there would be something that happened over here and then maybe months down the road or longer, something else would pop up.



Things moved very slowly until several years ago and now things seem to be moving faster and faster towards the start of the Tribulation Period and prior to that, the return of Jesus Christ for His Bride, the Church. We call it the Rapture of the Church!

We are going to be looking at several points this evening and as you will see, there is a convergence of these points, they are coming together and setting the stage for the start of the Tribulation Period.

We also will be looking at some of the major apostasies that seem to have risen and not only risen but they are drawing people, those that know the Scriptures away from the truth. And thus, we will look at how we are to defend our faith in the days we are living in.

But first, let's look at some of the Bible prophecy that we see coming into play in the days we are living in.

ONE WORLD RELIGION

The first point we are going to be looking at is – ***WORLD RELIGION!***

Now many do not see this as an important part of the last days, but it is vital for there to be a one world religion so the Antichrist can be established. You see, it is the False Prophet who gets the world to make the Antichrist a world leader and you can read of that in Revelation chapter 13.

In Revelation 13:11-12 we are told of this False Prophet, **“Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.”**



The new world religion will help put together the One World Government, they go hand in hand!

Now think about the last time that humans attempted to live as one unified global community.

Do you know when that was?



It was when they built the Tower of Babel. They united themselves together as a global community with a global religion, to worship the heavens and not the true and living God!

In the end, God derailed their efforts and that will be true here, they will not succeed for very long, less than seven years! And I will deal with this Tower of Babel in a few minutes because I think it does play a role in the last days, as I have said.

But what about this One World Religion, where do we see that?

One of the places I want to show you this world religion is in Revelation 17:1-6, where we are told, **“Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, ‘Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication.’ So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication. And on her forehead a name was written:**

**MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT,
THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS
AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.**

I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement.”



Here we see the false church called the harlot and we can compare this with the true church which is called the virgin bride of Christ.



Listen to how Paul speaks of the true church in II Corinthians 11:2. He wrote, **“For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.”**

You see, the true church is a virgin, not worshiping other gods or other things. And Jesus is coming for His Bride, the Church.



Now, in saying that, don't get the idea that the false church is not religious, they are very religious in their activity.

The problem is they have moved far away from Christ, they are committing spiritual fornication, going after false gods.

Let me share this with you so you can see where they are coming from and today, it is being embraced by the religions of the world.

One Catholic writer, Malachi Martin, said regarding the emergence of the European Super State, which is being brought together under Rome, put it like this. He said ***“It will include all the lands occupied by the ancient Romans, but the religion will not be Christianity or Catholicism, Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism or any religion known today. It already has its own religion, if we want to call it that. It is called the New Age . . . The New Age movement is at this moment influencing our present policies. If you listen to Prince Edward or Prince Charles of England, it is very obvious that they speak from a New Age background, and it bodes a lot of trouble for traditional Christianity.”***

Also understand that this religious system is worldwide as “**The great harlot sits on many waters.**”

And John tells us in verse 15 of Revelation chapter 17, that “**. . . ‘The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.’**”

This ecumenical movement will spread to all areas of the world, and they will acquire great wealth.

Let me share this with you - *The Pope’s Announcement in September of 2024.*

During a three-day visit to Singapore, Pope Francis delivered a message to an interfaith group, offering his views on the unity of the religions of the world that all lead to a single, Catholic, God. Quoting from that speech . . .

“They are like different languages in order to arrive at God, but God is God for all. Since God is God for all, then we are all children of God . . . There’s only one God, and each of us has a language to arrive at God. Some are Sheik, Muslim, Hindu, Christian, and they are different paths [to God].”

- <https://bit.ly/4fy4IiA>

That should be shocking to you, but if you understand that, as we look at the influence of the Pope, and maybe not this one, but one of them will be that False Prophet that comes on the scene, the one that John is speaking of in Revelation 13 and the religious system here in Revelation chapter 17.

And notice who they are coming after, the ones that are causing the problems not only for this false religious system, but also for the global government – ***TRUE CHRISTIANS!***

Again, we see this in Revelation 17:6 where we are told, **“I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement.”**

Think about this for a minute. False religious systems, even those who claim to be Christian, are at the forefront of trying to destroy Christianity!

Now when I speak of this many will come to the conclusion that I am speaking of the martyrdom of believers. That is true, we have seen that when the church began, and it continues on today.

But let me also say this, they are also trying to destroy Christianity by bringing in false teaching that moves people away from the true and living God. And this movement begins like a cancer cell, very slow moving and then, it grows and grows until it destroys the person and, in this case, the church!

How can this happen?



The answer is simple and yet very disturbing. Did you know that only 25% of Christians read their Bible at least once a week. Not only that, but 50% of Christians never read their Bible or they will read it only once or twice a year!

That is how it happens, we don't know the truth and we succumb to lies!

Not only that, but these false teachers and teachings work on our emotions and again, we fall prey to these things because it just feels right, even though it goes against what the Bible is teaching!

Abraham Lincoln said, ***“Give me six hours to cut down a tree and I will use four to sharpen my axe!”***

In other words, we must prepare for the job God has called us to do, even in these trying times, and that job is to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost a dying world.

Thus, the enemy gets people to believe in a false Gospel, like a works-based salvation, or the prosperity gospel, or all roads lead to God gospel!

I will give you one example and what I want you to see is that how Bible believing Christians can be taken in by false teaching and when you confront them on it, they get mad, and they end up walking away from your friendship. As crazy as that sounds, it does happen.

Let me also say this. I am not trying to offend anyone here if you watch this. What I do want you to do is understand where this is coming from and then you can make a decision on your own!



The focus here is the series – ***THE CHOSEN!***

It is a series that deals with the life of Christ, but does it really picture Jesus as Almighty God who became flesh and dwelt among us? It does show His humanity, but His deity is truly in question.

In one episode, before Jesus gives His Sermon on the Mount, He is asking His men about the message He will speak, how it sounds!

Do you think that Almighty God, the Word, needs help in giving His sermon? I don't think so.

But how can they move so far away from the truths of God found in the Word of God?

Listen carefully. We are told,

Although Jenkins has a Christian testimony, his partners in the film are a collection of Mormons, Roman Catholics, and Jews.

The executive producer is a Mormon, the production company is Mormon-owned; clearly, the work is in partnership with Mormons.

Jenkins, when responding to the levied criticism for working with Mormons said, ***“We love the same Jesus... I will sink or swim on that statement.”***

This is a problem. Mormons do not believe in the Trinity but believe in many gods. In fact, they believe one day you can become a god in their system. **“Jesus”** in Mormonism is the brother of Satan. At its root, Mormonism is also a works-based religious system. This religious system has historically (without controversy) been considered a cult. . . .

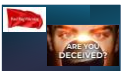
While the series does represent the biblical teaching accurately some of the time, it puts words in Jesus’ mouth that are not in the Bible, and the words are sometimes controversial pertaining to their accuracy in representing the tenor of Scripture. The series fills in a lot of space between the lines of Scripture and takes quite a bit of liberty to do so.

One’s theology of Jesus cannot help but come through in these scenes. Some of these space-filling scenes are dangerous in my view. Here is one example: At one point the man playing Jesus answers a disciple’s question relating to a truth Jesus would know, and **“Jesus”** answers, ***“What does your heart tell you?”*** as though that’s a reliable place to find the truth.

This is not biblical teaching. But this *is* taught in the Book of Mormon. I can’t tell you how many times after exposing the errors of Mormon teaching I have heard something similar: ***“After asking God if Mormonism is true, I got this feeling deep within that it is true.”***

At the end of the day, this is where Mormon theology leads.

Yes, red flags should be going up. There is a warning in Scripture about adding to God’s words.



Sometimes it is helpful for a teacher to help fill in the white spaces verbally, but this must be done with great care to not add to or contradict Scripture. It cannot be done liberally or without qualification.

- <https://bit.ly/49fOzfl>

I think that this series, along with much Bible teaching that is in error, is leading people down this ecumenical movement that will lead to a One World Religion and a One World Government.

Let me share this with you as once again you see this call for an ecumenical movement or all faiths coming together for the betterment of man. That is what they believe, but again, the heart of man is evil and what they are saying will never truly happen.



This article is from October 8, 2024, and we see that global religious Leaders assemble in Astana to discuss conflict resolution. This is what we are told,

“Over the past few years, humanity has faced unprecedented challenges. Today, the world is in a situation where all current global challenges and threats are intertwined, interdependent and mutually reinforcing. The situation in the Middle East is very difficult. We are all deeply concerned about the escalating tensions in the region. Our country calls on all parties involved to abandon the use of force in order to avoid civilian casualties and further deterioration of the situation. In this regard, we note the importance of taking early measures to resolve disagreements in the Middle East exclusively through political and diplomatic means, within the framework of the principles of the UN Charter and international law,” said Ashimbayev.

“In addition, the bloody conflict in Ukraine continues. In general, there are more and more hot spots on the planet. The escalation of conflicts undermines the achievements of the international community over the past decades, leads to an arms race and most importantly, suffering and losses among the civilian population,” he added.

Ashimbayev emphasized that in an era marked by the rise of radical ideologies, xenophobia, and the spread of malicious misinformation, the role of an interfaith dialogue platform is ever more important.

World religious leaders call on building bridges.

Abdelrahman Moussa, head of the office of Sheikh Al-Azhar, echoed Ashimbayev’s words regarding peaceful conflict resolution.

“Despite the challenges that humanity is facing today and despite the growing tensions, Al-Azhar is always against using force in any context, especially regarding the Middle East,” he said.

Moussa also addressed the need to use high moral values as a guiding principle in all political decisions.

“What we see spreading is the hatred towards other religions, and this is the key problem of humanity. From the moment when God has created this world and all of us, the aim was to unite us and to provide security of a humanity,” he said.

- <https://bit.ly/3OAZ0ku>

I find it interesting that their idea is that God wants to unite us but not in Jesus but in the faiths of what anyone wants to believe.

Is that true?

No, it is not!

Remember what Jesus said in John 14:6, just one verse and there are many on Jesus being the only way. Jesus said, “**... ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’**”

The only unity we can truly have is found in Jesus, He is the One who unites us together.


Also, the uniting together reminds me of what happened after the flood. In Genesis 11:1-4, “**Now the whole earth had one language and one speech. And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there. Then they said to one another, ‘Come, let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly.’ They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar. And they said, ‘Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.’**”

Let me start with the one language idea. We have the ability today, with our smart phones, to speak to people and understand what they are saying in different languages. When I was in Russia, I was able to say what I wanted to say in English and my phone translated it into Russian and vice versa, Russian into English for me to understand.

Next is their ability to rebel against God, “***Come, let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly.***”


God told them to spread out and multiply and yet, they refused to listen. And you can see their defiance to what God has told them, “**Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.**”

And look at the rebellion of man today, living as there is no God and yet, we see the hand of God moving in a powerful way in the days we are living in and, like at the Tower of Babel, judgment is coming!




Let me show you what I mean with this video that took place at the 2022 Commonwealth Games. Watch how there is this Tower of Babel that they are worshiping and then, the worship of this bull, Baal worship!

We are uniting together, at least most people in this world, in this One World Religion and a One World Government as we shall see.



And let me also say this. There are many Protestants that are turning to Catholicism! How can that be?

I don't get it, but they were never really saved in the first place, or they just don't understand the Scriptures and that the Roman Catholic Church teaches a works-based salvation, plus many other false teachings.



The most notable figure recently is J. D. Vance, Vice President!

A past president of the Evangelical Theological Society, Francis Beckwith, reverted to Catholicism in 2007.

Former Anglican Bishop Nazir Ali has lately returned to the Catholicism of his youth.

Other recent Catholic converts include Cameron Bertuzzi of Capturing Christianity (a popular YouTube channel).

Historian Joshua Charles, and John Richard Neuhaus, founder of *First Things* journal.

Past prominent converts to Eastern Orthodoxy include Hank Hanegraff who does the radio show, the "*Bible Answer Man.*"

Lutheran scholar Jaroslav Pelikan, and English bishop Kallistos Ware.



And lastly but sadly not the last on the list, is the conservative commentator Candace Owens who announced her conversion to Catholicism on social media in April 2024.



Here is the move back to Catholicism and this ecumenical movement. There is the call from the Roman Catholic Church, that started several years ago; to come back and they are doing it!



My pleading with you is to be men and women of the Word of God and when things are taught or what you see on the television goes against the Scripture, don't accept it, combat it with the truth and flee from the false teaching!



And, like I have said, this One World Religion will usher in the One World Government, which we will speak of next!

ONE WORLD GOVERNMENT




This idea of a global government has been going on for years. It is not something new and in reality, the Bible speaks of this long before man came up with the idea.



Before I move on in this area, let me say this. A One World Government is coming that will be perfect because it will be ruled by Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace and righteousness will fill the land.

Now, let me be honest here. There is coming a Global Government that will be ruled by one man and that is the Antichrist, and his rule will be demonic in nature. Death and destruction will be ushered into this world that was looking for peace and they thought they found it in this man, but not even close!


Let me show you how this has played out over the years, and you will see that this is not a new idea.



The world has already been divided up into ten kingdoms or ten regions as the Club of Rome did this back on September 17, 1973. This report is called - ***Regionalized and Adaptive Model of the Global World System.***

Way back on July 18, 1993, Henry Kissinger, a CFR member and Trilateralist said the following in the Los Angeles Times concerning NAFTA: ***“What Congress will have before it is not a conventional trade agreement but the architecture of a new international system . . . a first step toward a new world order.”***

The phrase ***“new world order”*** is speaking of this one world government.



We see this in Daniel chapter 2 as Daniel interprets for the King of Babylon what this multi-metallic image that he dreamed of represented.

They represented various kingdoms, from the Babylonian to the Persian to the Greek to the Roman and then the ten toes of this image represented the revived Roman Empire made up of ten kingdoms, like the Club of Rome developed or mapped out!

As David Rockefeller said, ***“We are on the verge of a global transformation. All we need is the right major crisis and the nations will accept the New World Order.”***

And our current President, Joe Biden, had this to say about the New World Order. ***“How I Learned to Love the New World Order”***

And lastly, James Warburg, a member of the Council of Foreign Relations (CFR was formed on July 29, 1921), said way back on February 17, 1950 before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, ***“We shall have world government whether or not you like it - by conquest or consent.”***



And now, in the twenty-first century, we are seeing the pieces of this puzzle for world government coming together and coming together very quickly. And I think it has to because people are starting to see what the governments of the world are doing, and they are starting to rebel against it.

That is why I think that there will be some kind of crises like a world war, or global catastrophe, or economic collapse or some kind of disease like COVID that will come on the scene and maybe a combination of a few or all of them and the people will desire someone to solve their problems and the answer, in their minds, will be the Antichrist!

Let me show you what is happening with this article from September of 2024, just a few months back.

We are told,

World leaders today adopted a Pact for the Future that includes a Global Digital Compact and a Declaration on Future Generations. . .

“The Pact for the Future, the Global Digital Compact, and the Declaration on Future Generations open the door to new opportunities and untapped possibilities,” said the Secretary-General during his remarks at the opening of the Summit of the Future.

The President of the General Assembly noted that the Pact would ***“lay the foundations for a sustainable, just, and peaceful global order – for all peoples and nations.”***

The Pact covers a broad range of issues including peace and security, sustainable development, climate change, digital cooperation, human rights, gender, youth and future generations, and the transformation of global governance. . .

The Global Digital Compact, annexed to the Pact, is the first comprehensive global framework for digital cooperation and AI governance.

- <https://bit.ly/3B76ybQ>

When you see global governance mentioned it is speaking of global government!

But why such a push for this global government?

Listen to this article from October of 2024.

We are told,

Humanity has reached a critical juncture. We face unprecedented challenges: climate change, resource depletion, global inequality, and the impending necessity to expand beyond Earth to ensure our long-term survival.

Divided nations, conflicting ideologies, and competition for resources are limiting our potential as a species. To overcome these challenges, humanity must unite under a single governing body - a one world government - focused on shared goals, universal progress, and the grand ambition of colonizing space. . .

The world today is plagued by fragmented governance that hinders coordinated action against existential threats.

Issues like climate change require large-scale interventions that individual nations cannot adequately handle alone. A one world government would enable unified policies to significantly curb greenhouse gas emissions, stabilize global ecosystems, and ensure sustainable resource management.



Without a centralized authority, nations act in their own self-interest, leading to fragmented policies that are often contradictory and insufficient. A unified government could cut through bureaucracy and enact powerful environmental legislation on a global scale, providing the leadership and consistency necessary to address these urgent issues effectively. . .

One of the most significant challenges preventing humanity from achieving its full potential is internal conflict. Wars, economic disparity, and competition for resources have historically hindered progress.

A one world government, by eliminating national borders, would effectively put an end to wars fought over territory or ideological differences. By creating a new global identity, people would start viewing themselves as part of a united species rather than members of separate nations.

- <https://bit.ly/3D4QWWF>

What is the problem with that idea of a One World Government where everyone is equal, and we all get along?



Humans are involved and because of the sin nature that is in man, it will not work, and we see that as we read Revelation and what this world leader does. You thought Hitler was bad! Not even close. Compared to this man Hitler was a Girl-Scout!

This is what President Donald Trump is fighting against, and it is a difficult battle. That is why the world is against him because they are for a global government!

This is an interesting article because it speaks of what the world wants and what the United States wants, at least some of the people.

We are told,

In a new study, recently published and freely available in *International Studies Quarterly*, we find that overwhelming majorities in 17 countries across the global South, North, East, and West support the creation of a democratic world government to tackle pressing global challenges like climate change. However, one country stands out as an exception: the United States.

. . . the support across countries (weighting each country equally) rose from 48% when unspecified to 68% when it was made clear that the proposed world government would be democratic and 67% when focused on global issues. Moreover, 69% of respondents across countries support a democratic world government focused on transnational issues.

- <https://bit.ly/3B4TyU5>

Again, a major catastrophic event would push the world, including the United States towards and into this One World Government. And we may see the emergence of this global government, but not the ushering in of the Antichrist!



For the United States, look at what is going on. We are seeing the government cause division, fights, wars. And with the borders open for four years and millions of violent criminals coming across into the United States, there is cause for concern.

Not only that, but Islam is a dangerous religion. They come to countries few in number and they are not causing much trouble.

But then, as their numbers increase there is more and more trouble and as you will see in this video, they mean business. And hear me out. This is a meeting that took place in America, Detroit Michigan and they are calling for the demise of America! Look at what they are talking about.

In saying that, did you know that the World Economic Forum (WEF) predicted that, by 2030, individuals would own nothing and be happy.

I think the idea here is that the government would be the one who issues these things for you, like health care, food, where you would live and so on. What we see happening in America, socialism!

Now that may sound great but hear me out. What if the government says that you can't teach the Bible if you want medical care, if you want food, if you want a place to live and so on?

What would you do?

As I close this section out, listen to these quotes about world government!

To achieve world government, it is necessary to remove from the minds of men, their individualism, loyalty to family traditions, national patriotism and religious dogmas.

- Brock Chisholm, who was a Canadian psychiatrist, medical practitioner, World War I veteran, and the first director-general of the World Health Organization (WHO)

It is the system of nationalist individualism that has to go....We are living in the end of the sovereign states . . . In the great struggle to evoke a Westernized World Socialism, contemporary governments may vanish . . . Countless people . . . will hate the new world order . . . and will die protesting against it.

- H. G. Wells

The one aim of these financiers is world control by the creation of inextinguishable debts.

- Henry Ford

Within the next hundred years . . . nationhood as we know it will be obsolete; all states will recognize a single, global authority . . . National sovereignty wasn't such a great idea after all.

- Strobe Talbott

National Socialism will use its own revolution for establishing of a new world order.

- Adolf Hitler

You have seen what the Democratic party has been pushing, socialism! And as we move in that direction, we are then moving towards this global government!

And I think our next topic will help get the world looking for a global leader and that topic is – ***THE MIDDLE EAST!***

THE MIDDLE EAST

As I said as we opened up our study, with the rebirth of the nation of Israel God's prophetic timeclock began to tick and now we see war breaking out in the Middle East.

And as many look at the nations that are involved in this war, they go to Ezekiel chapters 38 and 39, the war of Gog and Magog.

Now I don't believe the timing is right, even though we see many of the nations mentioned in Ezekiel coming together and fighting against Israel.

First let me read to you these passages that I think are important in Ezekiel, something we don't see yet.

In Ezekiel 38:8 we are told, **"After many days you will be visited. In the latter years you will come into the land of those brought back from the sword and gathered from many people on the mountains of Israel, which had long been desolate; they were brought out of the nations, and now all of them dwell safely."**

Notice that they are dwelling safely and yet, ever since Israel became a nation in 1948, there have been wars, nations coming against them to destroy them, just as we are seeing today.

Then, in Ezekiel 38:10-11 we are told of this invasion by Russia and her allies, **"Thus says the Lord God: 'On that day it shall come to pass that thoughts will arise in your mind, and you will make an evil plan: You will say, "I will go up against a land of unwalled villages; I will go to a peaceful people, who dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates."'"**

Again, Israel has not seen real peace in the land since the birth of the nation.

And lastly, in Ezekiel 38:14-17 we are told, **“Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say to Gog, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “On that day when My people Israel dwell safely, will you not know it? Then you will come from your place out of the far north, you and many peoples with you, all of them riding on horses, a great company and a mighty army. You will come up against My people Israel like a cloud, to cover the land. It will be in the latter days that I will bring you against My land, so that the nations may know Me, when I am hallowed in you, O Gog, before their eyes.””**

What is my point with these verses?

Simple. This battle will take place after Israel is dwelling safely and again, this has not happened yet.

I know a lot of people thought that this war with Hamas in Gaza, and with Hezbollah in Syria, and Iran being involved as well as other nations we read of in Ezekiel chapters 38 and 39, was the start of this battle.

Now I am not going to be dogmatic on this, but I don't think it is. Yes, these nations are coming together but before this battle begins, as I read what is spoken of in Ezekiel, there is a time of peace.

President Trump, when he comes into office says that Hamas has to release the Israeli hostages, or their will be hell to pay for them!

It could be that as President Trump puts the pressure on not only Hamas and Hezbollah and Iran to stop these attacks on Israel, that Israel will enjoy a time of peace before this invasion!

We shall see, but it is interesting when you look at what is happening in the Middle East, these nations are coming together but there will be, I believe, a respite, a time of peace before this battle begins!

I also believe that the next war or the next Biblical war, one mentioned in the Bible is the one we read of in Isaiah 17:1. We are told, **“The burden against Damascus. ‘Behold,**

Damascus will cease from being a city, And it will be a ruinous heap.”



Damascus, the capital of Syria, is a large city of about 2 million people. It is the oldest capital and longest-inhabited city in the world.

In other words, what the Lord said in Isaiah has not taken place yet!

Amir Tsarfati believes this as well as he wrote, *“Isaiah 17 is the thing that will ignite the whole region to bring about the Ezekiel 38 war. Isaiah 17 speaks of the utter destruction of Damascus to the point that it can no longer be inhabitable. And as you know, Damascus has never been destroyed to that point. And so, it’s a future event, and it will happen.”*

I also believe that this is the event that gets the Muslim nations surrounding Israel to rise up and come down upon Israel, to destroy it. We see this in Psalm 83:4-5, what nations want to do with Israel and make no mistake about it, they feel the same way today.

What does this Psalm say?

Listen carefully. We are told, **“They have said, ‘Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation, That the name of Israel may be remembered no more.’ For they have consulted together with one consent; They form a confederacy against You.”**

The goal of these nations has always been the destruction of Israel and the Jewish people and that has not changed over the years. In fact, it is getting even worse as we see the world coming against Israel for defending their nation and their people!

This is from September 18, 2024, and we are told about a vote in the United Nations.

This is what the article said.

The resolution also calls on member states not to sell arms or military equipment to Israel that would be used in Gaza, the West Bank, and east Jerusalem.

Final count of the UN decision to demand Israel end ‘unlawful’ presence in Palestinian territories within 12 months.

The United Nations General Assembly on Wednesday voted 124-14 to strip Israel of the right to self-defense against Palestinian terrorism in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and east Jerusalem.

The text of the resolution was based on the International Court of Justice’s advisory opinion in July that Israel’s occupation of Palestinian territory was illegal.

- <https://bit.ly/41dqVyv>

Not only that but listen to this.



The International Criminal Court has issued arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, former Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, and a senior Hamas official, accusing them of war crimes during and after the October 7 attacks on Israel last year.

In a statement on Thursday, the Netherlands-based court said it found “reasonable grounds” to believe that Netanyahu bears criminal responsibility for war crimes including “starvation as a method of warfare” and “the crimes against humanity of murder, persecution, and other inhumane acts.”

The warrants mark a historic first, making Netanyahu the first Israeli leader summoned by an international court for alleged actions against Palestinians in the 76-year conflict. . .

The prime minister's office dismissed the warrants as "absurd and antisemitic."

"Israel utterly rejects the absurd and false actions and accusations against it by the International Criminal Court, which is a politically biased and discriminatory body," his office said, adding that there is "no war more just . . . after the Hamas terrorist organization launched a murderous attack against it, carrying out the largest massacre against the Jewish people since the Holocaust."

Netanyahu "will not yield to pressure, will not back down, and will not retreat until all the goals of the war set by Israel at the start of the campaign are achieved," it said.

- <https://bit.ly/49rfCFe>

Think about what took place, why Israel is responding like they are doing.

On October 7, 2023, Hamas launched the largest-ever terrorist attack on Israeli soil.

The Palestinian organization, considered a terrorist group by the EU and the US, stormed through the security fence separating Gaza and Israel in the early morning, killing 1,189 people, including 815 civilians, wounding 7,500 and taking 251 hostages.

That is why they responded and are responding like they did and yet, the world, including President Biden, has come against Israel. Yes, he says he is for them but then you listen again and what he says is going against what they are trying to do, destroy the terrorist organizations of Hamas and Hezbollah!

It is interesting to see that the world is coming against what Israel is doing, and the Bible tells us that is what will happen. In Zechariah 12:2-3 we are told, **“Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem. And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it.”**

Again, ever since Israel became a nation once again, back on May 14, 1948, they have been a cup of trembling to their enemies. Their enemies wanted them destroyed.

Thus, as this nation was born Syria attacked from the north, Jordan from the east and Egypt from the south. And yet this tiny nation won the war!

But this is not what is being spoken of here.

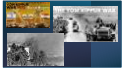
There is another problem for the Jewish people and the city of Jerusalem. The Muslims claim Jerusalem as their third-holiest city. But there is a little problem. Jerusalem is not mentioned once in the Koran.

Not only that but listen to what Dave Hunt said, ***“During the centuries when Jerusalem was under complete Arab control, no Arab ruler or Islamic leader ever made it the object of a religious pilgrimage - again a strange indifference toward a city which is now considered to be the third-holiest religious site in Islam after Mecca and Medina.”*** But again, that is not what is being spoken of here in Zechariah.



But there is more. Back in 1967 the same nations; Syria, Jordan and Egypt attacked Israel and God once again protected His people. Israel took the Sinai Peninsula from Egypt. They took the West Bank from Jordan. And the city of Jerusalem was now all theirs, it was no longer a divided city! And this was accomplished in 6 days! But again, that is not what Zechariah is speaking of here.

We are not done yet.



Back in 1973 there was the Yom Kippur War as Egypt and Syria attacked this time. And once again God gave them a great victory. They marched into Egypt taking the whole 3rd Egyptian Army.

Up north, they took the Golan Heights back coming within 17 miles of Damascus. If their enemies had not called for an end to the war, they would have been prepared to go all the way into Cairo in the south and bomb Damascus in the north.

But this is not what Zechariah is speaking of here, we still have not seen the complete fulfillment of this yet.

What we are seeing today is a buildup and, in the end, the entire world will come against Israel and ultimately try to destroy Israel. We call this the battle of Armageddon when the Lord comes back and destroys these enemies!

As we have seen, there is a big war coming up and you can read about it in Ezekiel chapters 38 and 39. This is still future and what we see in these chapters is Russia, with her Muslim allies, come down upon Israel. But once again we see God save His people destroying 5/6 of the Russian Army.

But that still is not the complete fulfillment of this prophecy.

As I have said, the complete fulfillment of this prophecy is seen in the Battle of Armageddon when the Antichrist and the Gentile nations surround Jerusalem, they are ready to destroy the Jews and God will intervene and destroy her enemies. The enemies of Israel will not be able to move this heavy stone!

This tiny nation, the size of New Jersey, is at the forefront of talks within the United Nations, not for Israel but against this nation. We see the rise of Antisemitism throughout the world. And this will only increase as the Lord's return draws closer.

I like the way that David Hunt sums this up. He said, ***“Consider how remarkable even this one prophecy is. Who could have imagined when the Old Testament was written that all the nations of the world would be involved in deciding the fate of Israel? And this involvement of all nations in dividing Israel has occurred exactly as prophesied and is still in the process of being implemented.”***

Make no mistake about it, man does not decide the fate of Israel, God does. And those who try to come against Him will lose, not might!

We see the last part of verse 3 tell us this very thing, **“... all who would heave it away will surely but cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it.”**

We have seen this in the past and this will climax or reach its complete fulfillment, like I have said, at the end of the Tribulation Period.

As I bring our first study to a close, let me share these words that Jesus spoke to His men regarding the last days.

In Matthew 24:3-8 we are told, **“Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, ‘Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?’ And Jesus answered and said to them: ‘Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many. And you will hear of wars and rumors 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.”**

These verses are dealing with the first 3½ years of the 7-year Tribulation Period also known as **“the beginning of sorrows.”**

This is literally saying *“the beginning of birth pangs.”*

The idea here is that when labor starts it usually is not very difficult, some minor pains and they are far apart.

And that is what we see for those first 3½ years, minor pain with false Christ’s, wars, rumors of wars, civil wars, famines, pestilences, earthquakes. This will start out mild, but as the labor progresses the pains get more and more intense, and they get closer together prior to giving birth.

Please understand that what we are seeing today are what we might call false labor pains or Braxton Hicks contractions that are preparing the way for the true labor that is coming – ***THE TRIBULATION PERIOD!***

We are not here for that!

We are seeing today a proliferation of false doctrine coming into the church that I believe is leading the church into a one-world religion. But that really is not what this is speaking of here. It is speaking of false Christ's, and they have been around since the time of Christ.

But there is more to it than that. Listen again to what Jesus said, **“For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many.”** I believe there is something that He is hitting on that may blow you away. The Greek word for **“many”** is POLUS and it speaks of a very great number, as in millions and millions of people, not just a select few and they will claim to be god, they are false Christ's!

And look at the teachings of New Ager's, of health, wealth and prosperity teachers, and many are falling prey to this idea that they are god! Not only that, but when you reject God, then you become a god in your own mind as you are doing whatever you want. I think that is what Jesus is speaking of the proliferation of man thinking he is god!

We see wars all over the place today, terrorism that is only going to increase. Interestingly enough the word **“will”** in the Greek is ***MELLO***, (mel'-lo) and that carries the idea of continual hearing. There will be constant talk of actual wars and of rumors of wars, to a degree the world has never known before. We see that today, but it will get only worse as we draw close to the start of the Tribulation Period!

We also see **“famines”** spoken of, and **“pestilences”** spoken of, and **“earthquakes in various places”** spoken of.

And we see these famines even today, but it will get worse!

Did you know that each day, 25,000 people, including more than 10,000 children, die from hunger and related causes. Some 854 million people worldwide are estimated to be undernourished, and high food prices may drive another 100 million into poverty and hunger.

Then there are those pestilences, and we saw how just the COVID virus killed people all over the world, and as we get closer to the Tribulation Period, this will only increase in nature.

And earthquakes in various places, we are seeing this and during the Tribulation Period there is going to be such a severe earthquake that the earth will be shaken off its axis!

We see this in Isaiah 24:19-20, **“The earth is violently broken, The earth is split open, The earth is shaken exceedingly. The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, And shall totter like a hut; Its transgression shall be heavy upon it, And it will fall, and not rise again.”**



An earthquake can cause the earth to wobble or stagger like a drunken man! Let me share with you two instances that are not huge to say the least, but they do show that an earthquake can cause this.

The 9.0 magnitude earthquake that ravaged Japan also shortened Earth’s day by just over one-millionth of a second (1.8 microseconds to be exact), according to NASA. It also shifted the Earth’s axis by about 6.5 inches.

The quake also shifted the position of the Earth’s “figure” axis (which is different from the planet’s north-south axis). This shift in Earth’s figure axis will cause *Earth to wobble* a bit differently as it rotates, but it won’t cause a shift of the Earth’s axis in space - only external forces such as the gravitational attraction of the sun, moon and planets could do that.

- <https://bit.ly/2VEaPPc>

Also, we are told,

An earthquake that unleashed deadly tidal waves on Asia was so powerful it made the *Earth wobble* on its axis and permanently altered the regional map, US geophysicists said today. The 9.0-magnitude temblor that struck 250 km south-east of Sumatra Island on Sunday may have moved small islands as much as 20 meters, according to one expert.

- <https://bit.ly/2VKStfe>

Thus, don't be *DECEIVED!*

And the way not to be deceived is to know the truth, know the Word of God and walk accordingly! *STAND UP FOR THE TRUTH!*

I will close with this, because this is what we will be focusing on in our next study as we look at the Rapture and the push today to negate this hope that we are to have.

Please be ready for the Lord can come for His Bride, the Church tonight. But also prepare because the Lord may come in a year or more. In other words, always be ready.



And this is the verse I want to close with, **“looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.”**