



# Are The End Times NEAR?

*"At that time ... there shall be a time of trouble, Such as never was since there was a nation ... Although I heard, I did not understand. Then I said, "My lord, what shall be the end of these things?" And he said, "Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end." (Daniel 12)*



## The Golden Rule Of Interpretation

**Created By Dr. David L. Cooper**

Trying to understand what the Bible is saying can be difficult. Here is a way that has helped many people. It is known as *Dr Cooper's Golden Rule* and is reproduced below. It is the rule that we will follow in this series.

***"When the plain sense of scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense; therefore, take every word at its primary, ordinary, usual, literal meaning unless the facts of the immediate context, studied in the light of related passages and axiomatic (i.e. self-evident or unquestionable) and fundamental truths indicate clearly otherwise."***

**A. Seek the plain, literal meaning of the scriptures.**

**B. Seek the figurative meaning only when the facts demand such an interpretation.**

**C. Study every statement of the scriptures in context.**

"Then study the facts of the context in the light of related passages and axiomatic (i.e. self-evident or unquestionable) fundamental truths.

"No prophecy of scripture is of private (special) interpretation (2 Peter 1:20)

"The sum of thy word is truth (Psalm 119:160)

"1. *The Golden Rule of Interpretation* is one of the most important principles governing us in our interpretation of the Scriptures.

"2. If we follow this rule, we shall never go very far wrong; **but if we fail to follow it, we shall never go right.**"

C. H. Spurgeon agrees,

*"I wish never to learn the art of tearing God's meaning out of His own Words. If there is anything clear and plain, the literal sense and meaning of (the) passage, (it's) a meaning not to be spirited or spiritualised away.* (C. H. Spurgeon Sermon No. 582 on-line source)

(“Cooper’s Golden Rule” source: <http://www.messianicassociation.org/ezine19-dc.hermeneutics.htm>)

# Are The End Times NEAR?

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# Introduction: Are The End Times Near? Is There Any Way That We Can Tell?

*"At that time ... there shall be a time of trouble, Such as never was since there was a nation ... Although I heard, I did not understand. Then I said, "My lord, what shall be the end of these things?" And he said, "Go your way, Daniel, **for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.**"*

Excerpted from Dan 12

This document introduces a single-paged A4 sized series. Using only one single page, their intention is to alert us to matters clearly spoken about in the Bible and of their importance.

"End Time" teaching these days is just about non-existent in most Churches. Many believers have not the slightest idea what the Bible teaches about these coming events, even though the Scriptures have very much to say about them.

These "End Time" events are the precursor to the physical return of Jesus to the earth. Here is a question: **Are there any signs to look for that will alert us that the end-times are closing in on us?**

The answer is "Yes". Many fail to understand that whilst "no one knows the day nor the hour" of Christ's return, the Scriptures do teach that there are many indicators so that we may know that the Great Day is approaching.

The Lord does not keep us in the dark and promises "**Surely the Lord God will do nothing, unless He reveals His secret unto His servants the prophets.**" Amos 3:7

Consider this:

- If the prophetic word of God is totally incomprehensible and unknowable, then it is of no value to we humans, is it?
- God does not taunt us, or set us incomprehensible puzzles.
- In fact, He does reveal His secrets as He plainly declares through the prophet Amos shown above.

The prophetic Scriptures contain much detailed information and it comes to us in plain everyday English. The prophetic word, which is the Bible itself, is not a closed book only open to the *intelligentsia* or people with outstanding minds and great scholarship. The Bible is for the common man, "*And the common people heard Him gladly.*" (Mark 12:37) In many instances, it is the scholars who lead us astray bringing confusion rather than light.

The text at the top of this page comes from Daniel twelve and that chapter gives some detail of the great tribulation that is to come upon the earth.

Many think that only the Revelation given to St John contains the prophecies but there is considerably more detail in the Old Testament about these world-wide events.

The verse from Daniel (quoted above) reveals that the prophetic word is "**closed up and sealed until the time of the end.**" Whatever could that mean?

Many have been studying these things for decades. Back in the late 1970's and early 1980's there were numerous things that were beyond the then current comprehension. Nowadays those exact things that caused confusion are instantly understood.

Some of these matters will be detailed later but the thing that "*unsealed them*" was the advancement in technology and the progress of history. **They were "sealed" once, but they are not sealed anymore.** Even a youngster could now understand how these ancient prophecies **could** come to pass. Thus, today, the ancient text that so confused the prophet Daniel leap into life "... *for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.*"

Now that technology has allowed us to understand how certain of these prophecies may be fulfilled, is it going too far to say that the end times are upon us? Maybe it would be if that was all there was to it, but it isn't! **There are many other events happening in our world TODAY that are bringing the ancient prophecies to vibrant life** as they unfold before us. We will be also looking at them in this series.

It may well surprise you that some of the headlines we see today were foretold millennia ago by the ancient prophets, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, Ezekiel, David, Zechariah and others. Jesus Himself also taught many prophetic things and Paul, Peter and the four Gospel authors all wrote about them.

Please examine them with an open mind and **ask the Lord to reveal to you if they are His truth or not. Ask the Lord to bring these articles to naught if they are false! He will answer your sincere prayer.**

## Are The End Times Near? Setting The Stage

The much loved preacher C. H. Spurgeon ministered in London and elsewhere in the 1800's. In 1881 Spurgeon preached these words,

*"There is a history yet for Israel; her sun is clouded, but it has not set ... the chosen people (shall) return from captivity and possess the land which the Lord has given to them. In those days the Lord shall build them as at the first and cleanse them from all of their iniquities.... these days have not come yet, but they shall surely arrive."* (C. H Spurgeon Sermon No. 1636 25/12/1881)

Israel had not existed since AD70 when Rome destroyed it and scattered the survivors all over the planet. However Spurgeon boldly claimed that Israel would become a nation again basing his claims totally on the promises in the Word of God.

Many preachers had proclaimed the same message long before Israel became a nation again. In fact, Spurgeon and many others like him, died long before Israel was reborn. Like Spurgeon, they all based their message on the clear teachings of the Bible. Isaiah asks

*"Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Shall the earth be made to give birth in one day? Or shall a nation be born at once? For as soon as Zion was in labor, She gave birth to her children. Shall I bring to the time of birth, and not cause delivery?" says the Lord.* (Isaiah 66: 8-9)

Israel was "born in one day" in 1948 thus fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy. The British mandate ended on 14th May 1948 and the State of Israel was "born in a day." The leading story of the *Sydney Morning Herald* (15/5/1948 page 1) records that birth.

### JEWS PROCLAIM NEW STATE Arabs Declare War; Fierce Battles.

*London, May 14 - The birth of the Jewish State of Israel from midnight tonight (8am Saturday Sydney time) was proclaimed at a solemn assembly of the Jewish National Council in Tel Aviv. At the same time the headquarters of the Arab League in Damascus issued a "state of war" Declaration ... and the Egyptian Government announced it would invade Palestine one minute after midnight.*

The Arab states attacked Israel as soon as it was declared to be a Nation. They have been attacking Israel ever since and, in many ways, so has the media, various non-Arab Nations and even the Church.

## JEWS PROCLAIM NEW STATE

## Arabs Declare War; Fierce Battles

From Our Staff Correspondent and A.A.P.

LONDON, May 14.—The birth of the Jewish State of Israel from midnight to-night (8 a.m. Saturday, Sydney time) was proclaimed this afternoon at a solemn assembly of the Jewish National Council in Tel Aviv.

### Why Israel?

The significance of Israel CANNOT be overstated. The whole of the prophetic programme of God centres around Israel and that is precisely why those in the Church who deny any significance to Israel have no message to bring from the prophetic word of God. They are blinded to this Truth and some are wittingly, or unwittingly, opposing the very work of God by striving against Israel.

**The return of the Lord is irrevocably linked to the nation of Israel.** Jesus is coming back to Jerusalem as we see in many places. Here is one of them.

*Behold, the day of the Lord is coming... For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; The city shall be taken, the houses rifled, and the women ravished. ... Then the Lord will go forth and fight against those nations, as He fights in the day of battle. And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east.*

(Zechariah 14: 1-4)

From Satan's point of view, the destruction of Israel makes inescapable strategic sense. **Destroy Israel and you destroy the Plan of God.** That is why Satan has sought to annihilate the Jewish people since their scattering by the Romans. The whole history of Judaism is one of hatred and persecution culminating in attempted genocide by the Nazis.

That plan failed and the holocaust became the catalyst that led to the re-establishment of Israel. God does indeed work in mysterious ways. As the Psalmist says "*Surely the wrath of man shall praise You*" (Psalm 76:10) **and it does!**

Every time there is an attack on Israel, every time terrorists attack within Israel, every time Israel is attacked in the media, in political forums, in the United Nations and worse, by the Church; every time we hear a preacher say that the Church replaces Israel, then we are witnessing attempts to destroy Israel.

The re-establishment of Israel as a nation after almost nineteen centuries, and the return to their National homeland, is the primary prophetic event and much flows from it as we will see.

# Are The End Times Near? Why Israel Must Exist

The various prophecies often begin from a certain assumption: they are set in and revolve around Israel as we see here. We read in Matthew 24:3

*"And as Jesus sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto Him privately, saying,*

- Tell us, when shall these things be?
- and what shall be the sign of Your coming,
- and of the end of the world?"

This question began a discourse by Jesus (Matt 24) who gave many details. Jesus warned about many serious events prior to the great distress that would come upon Israel and the world. This period is mostly called *The Great Tribulation*. These warnings presume the existence of Israel by our Lord for He speaks of the Temple as the venue of this event. As these future things must happen in Jerusalem it shows that city to be the home of the Jewish people, **and therefore demands the existence of Israel as a nation.**

Jesus here is warning the people who will be living at the time of this coming horror. He does so by highlighting a prophecy made by Daniel hundreds of years before. Jesus said, "*When you see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the Prophet standing in the holy place, flee.*" (Matt 24:15)

The "*holy place*" is a part of the Temple and the "*abomination*" Jesus mentioned is a technical Jewish term. It refers to the desecration of the Holy Place. There was an historic precedent when Antiochus Epiphanes (216BC - 164BC) sacrificed a pig in the Temple causing an abomination of the Temple. Antiochus anointed himself with the name "*Epiphanies*" meaning "*the visible god*" and he is a type of Antichrist.

St Paul adds detail to these words of Jesus and when speaking of the end-time events tells us how the antichrist pollutes the Temple.

*"Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin (the Antichrist) be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sits in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God."* 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4

This is the "*abomination*" Jesus mentioned and it is a major turning point for the Jewish people at that time. It marks the beginning of the serious and deadly persecution in "*the time of Jacob's Trouble*" as the Great Tribulation is also called. (Glossary p 11)

In Matthew 24 Jesus lists all sorts of events to watch for as He warns the Jews of this coming day.

He says that when they witness the "*abomination*" then they must flee instantly saying "*Let them which be in Judea flee into the mountains*" (Matthew 24:16)

To stress the urgency to escape this coming horror Jesus issues an intense warning in Matthew 24,

*17 Let him that is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: 18 Neither let him that is in the field return back to take his clothes. 19 And woe unto them that are pregnant with child, and nursing mothers in those days! 20 Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath. 21 For then there will be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. 22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.*

As this event happens in Israel, according to the words of Jesus Himself, it obviously implies that Israel must exist. **These events are not historic** and did not happen when Israel was driven out by the Romans. They could not have happened since that date because Israel did not exist until 1948, and its borders did not extend to Jerusalem until June 1967 after the *Six Day War*.

They still have not happened, but Israel is now a nation and Jerusalem is now within its borders, so the stage is being set. It is true that the Temple does not yet exist but the Jewish people are preparing to build it once again. For decades the Jewish people have been collecting the materials to rebuild the Temple. The furnishings now exist and they are even training Priests in the Temple rights.

An Israeli Newspaper reports that "*in a modern effort to revive the ancient Jewish religious court Prof. Rabbi Hillel Weiss, a spokesman for the Sanhedrin, said: "The political conditions today ... are historically unprecedented."*" The Sanhedrin sent letters to both Trump and Putin urging them to work together to fulfil a project that will benefit all mankind - the rebuilding of the Holy Temple atop Jerusalem's hotly contested Temple Mount. Both leaders have expressed support for Jewish claims to Jerusalem, though Trump has certainly been the most vocal of the two. At any rate, Israel is "*poised to rebuild the Temple*," Weiss insisted. (*Israel Today* 15/11/16)

Israel is ever in the News and will remain so. We would do well to follow the advice of the Lord and "*Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.*" (Psalm 122:6)

# Are The End Times Near? The Burdensome Stone

***“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.”*** (Zechariah 12:2-3)

Why is the tiny State of Israel almost always in the news? If ever there was a strange thing to observe then this must be it! According to Wikipedia Israel is the 98th nation by population having about 8 million people. So it is a very small nation with a very small landmass of only 20,770 km<sup>2</sup>. Tasmania is over three times the size of Israel with its land mass of 68,401 km<sup>2</sup>.

Why is Israel constantly being condemned by the United Nations? Wikipedia says that a *United Nation council ‘had resolved almost more resolutions condemning Israel than on the rest of the world combined.’* ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_the\\_UN\\_resolutions\\_concerning\\_Israel\\_and\\_Palestine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_the_UN_resolutions_concerning_Israel_and_Palestine))

Israel, based on the repeated UN condemnation of it, must be a monstrous country and yet we read “*The measure of the level of democracy in nations throughout the world published by Freedom House... (shows that) The Middle Eastern (country) with the highest score (is) Israel... Freedom House categorises Israel as ‘Free.’*” ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democracy\\_in\\_the\\_Middle\\_East](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democracy_in_the_Middle_East))

So we are able to see that

- Israel is a tiny nation, with a small landmass,
- it is a “free” nation and the only nation in the Middle East that practices “democracy”
- and yet it is condemned repeatedly by the United Nations.

Does this strike you as a strange and unfair thing? And is it going to get better? Well, not according to the Bible.

Jerusalem is to be a “*burdensome stone*” for anyone who interferes with it and many Nations will do so. We read

*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.* (Zechariah 12:3)

It is the Lord who defends Israel and that has been demonstrated since its inception in 1948. God established Israel and Jerusalem. We read,

*In the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto your seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates..*” (Genesis 15:18) “*The land shall not be sold for ever: for the land is*

*mine...*” (Leviticus 25:23) “*But I have chosen Jerusalem, that my name might be there...*” (2 Chronicles 6:6)

Many nations will come against Israel

*For, lo, your enemies make a tumult: and they that hate you have lifted up the head. They have taken crafty counsel against your people, ... They have said, Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance. For they have consulted together with one consent: they are confederate against you:* (Ps 83:2-5) “*Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege against ... Jerusalem.*” (Zechariah 12: 2)

This prophetic siege has not yet happened even though the enemies of Israel constantly “*make a tumult.*” It seems that most of the world opposes Israel and many Moslem nations are calling for its annihilation, and yet it survives and will survive.

The only way that this strange phenomenon can be understood, it seems to me anyway, is to see it in spiritual terms: in terms of the great battle between the forces of evil trying to make the promises of God of no effect. **God has chosen Israel**, and the end-time events the Bible discusses all revolve around that tiny Nation. Thus it makes excellent strategic sense, from Satan’s point of view, to destroy Israel. If Israel was no more then the whole plan of God would be in tatters.

Thus we see Satan’s plans being enacted through the United Nations, through the many Nations of the world who vote against Israel, through all sorts of activist groups who oppose Israel such as the *Boycott, Divest and Sanction* Israel groups (BDS). The activities of this group will be explained later. (see Glossary p11)

It’s worse than that for some of the organised Church is “*up in arms*” against Israel. Some Churches are involved in BDS groups and are thus actively working against Israel. They justify it through the doctrine commonly called *Replacement Theology* (see Glossary p11) which is the idea that the Church replaces Israel. The end result is that they are actively opposing the work of God and working against Him. Many of their members would be horrified to realise it.

# Are The End Times Near? “Unsealing” The Difficulties?

The Lord had made many revelations to the Prophet Daniel but he was unable to understand them. A confused Daniel said, “*I heard but could not understand*” and he was told “*Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.*” (Daniel 12:8-9) Please note that these matters were not sealed up forever and ever; they were sealed until “*the time of the end.*”

Certain events that were confusing to Daniel and that generation would “*at the time of the end*” be understandable. And that is precisely what is happening now. Daniel was told that people would flit “*to and fro*” and that “*knowledge will increase.*” (Daniel 9:4) If ever there was a time of “*flitting to and fro*” it is now. One extended family, well known to me, made eighteen overseas trips in 2017 alone. International jet travel is enormous and growing daily. It is an everyday thing in the modern world, but only in recent decades. The idea that we can be in Australia one day and in the UK a day later is truly amazing, but it is so common that we don’t even think about it.

“*Knowledge shall increase.*” You could successfully argue that knowledge has always been increasing. Every generation knows more than the previous one. With the rise of the internet and mobile devices the breadth of knowledge at everyone’s fingertips is beyond the conception of all previous generations. This too is a recent phenomenon and unknown just a few years ago.

Here is a passage that defied understanding until recently. In Revelation 11 we read of two faithful witnesses of God who preach in Jerusalem and cause great fear to fall on all who oppose them. Finally the “*beast*” (Antichrist) has them killed. Here is something that was previously hard to understand.

*8 And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. 9 And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves. 10 And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth. (Rev 11: 8-10)*

We used to wonder how it was that the whole world could see their bodies and send gifts to one another, but my youngest grandchild would instantly see how it could happen now. Knowledge has increased effectively shrinking the world. Within

seconds the whole world knows about all sorts of happenings no matter where they occur and we may watch them “*live*” from our living rooms.

The Scriptures teach that a man called the Antichrist is to rule the world. A few years ago we wondered just how this could possibly be? Why would any government give up their sovereignty? However these days the United Nations does have such a plan and it was posted on March 10, 2016. We read,

*“The UN have unveiled their masterplan for the next 14 years – saying that they wish to implement global socialism and corporate fascism as part of their “Agenda 2030” plans.*

*Part of their plans, officially dubbed “Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals,” aims to reduce inequality worldwide by forcing individual governments and citizens alike to share their wealth under the guidance of a one world government.”*

The Pope is also calling for the same thing. Speaking in the US (22/9/2015) he said

*“The twenty-first century, while maintaining systems of governance inherited from the past, is witnessing a weakening of the power of nation states, chiefly because the economic and financial sectors, being transnational, tends to prevail over the political ... there is urgent need of a true world political authority, as my predecessor Blessed John XXIII indicated some years ago ... One authoritative source of oversight and coordination is the law, which lays down rules for admissible conduct in the light of the common good...”*

These days it is not hard to believe in a one world government. It is becoming a well discussed topic with many happy proponents all pushing its “*benefits*,” but it was not so just a few years ago.

The Pope is also open to the idea of a one world religion in the sense that he sees all religions as pointing the way to God. In a video produced by the “*Popes Worldwide Prayer Network*” he links together the Christian faith with Buddhism, Islam and Judaism. See it for yourself. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=07dPzM5q43c>)

Things are rapidly changing in our world and events that seemed impossible just a few years ago are now “*unsealed*” for all to see. *The End Times* are rapidly approaching.

# Are The End Times Near? More Difficulties Resolved

It is very interesting to see how certain foretold events are now appearing “before our eyes” as we might say. For centuries many Bible students wondered how some of these prophesied events could happen, but for many of those happenings they wonder no more.

Here is a well known passage that was hard to understand just how it could happen. It comes from Revelation 13.

*16 And he (the Antichrist) causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: 17 And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. 18 Here is wisdom. Let him that has understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six (666).*

## The Coming Of The Credit Card

We used to wonder how it could possibly be that no one could buy or sell without the “mark of the beast.” We did believe the plain words of the Scriptures, but could not then understand how it could happen: not that we had to understand it of course. Then came the credit card and a dull light began to shine on this difficulty. It became easier to see how it could happen.

The first widely distributed credit card in Australia was *Bankcard* and it began in 1974. Before then only *Diners Club* and *American Express* were available in Australia but they were not widely used. So, practically speaking, it was the now defunct *Bankcard* that started it all in Australia.

## Cashless Society Coming

Today there are many who want to do away with cash transactions altogether and governments all over the world are embracing this “cashless” idea. Governments do not like cash transactions because it allows people to trade without the governments getting their “taxation share.”

An Australian newspaper *Herald Sun* reported “*Make no mistake, we are moving at lightning speed towards a cashless society. Within a generation, notes and coins will almost certainly be redundant – not just in practice but made so by law.*

“*Shops and other businesses will be banned from accepting them. Banks will no longer distribute*

*them. Physical currency will be consigned to history ...*

*“Consumers have responded with gusto and have embraced technology such as tap-and-go card payment systems that are mostly faster at the register than an exchange of notes and coins. Young adults in particular are at the vanguard of the next wave: tap-to-pay smartphone and **wearable-chip technology** that will send credit cards the way of cash.”* (*Herald Sun 1/8/2016*)

## Wearable Chip Technology

The Bible is always ahead of society and accurately foretells the future, provided we will but believe its plain words. The idea of *wearable chip technology* was first recorded by St John on the Isle of Patmos two millennia ago. He well and truly scooped the *Herald Sun*.

St John did not use that term, but the concept was no surprise to the Lord who inspired the words in Revelation that said,

*“And he (the Antichrist) causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.”* (Revelation 13:16-17)

These ancient and confusing words are so easily understood today. In the first century AD St John was writing about “*Wearable Chip Technology*” and these days you can even read about it in the *Herald Sun* newspaper.

So we are able to see that many things that so confused Bible believing people even a few years ago are now becoming easy to understand. Daniel was confused by the revelations the Lord gave him and he said to the Lord, “*I heard but could not understand.*” The Lord replied “*Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.*” (Daniel 12:8-9)

We are now able to understand so much of the Lord’s revelations. We can “see” how they could happen, so is it unfair to conclude that the end time is rapidly approaching? That is what the Lord told Daniel revealing that some future generation will see and understand: why not our generation?

# Are The End Times Near?

## The Valley of Dry Bones

*"The hand of the Lord was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the Lord, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones, 2 And caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry. 3 And He said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live?"* (Ezekiel 37:1-3)

Ezekiel 37 poses some interesting questions. The ancient Prophet was given a vision and he saw a "valley full of dry bones." He was asked "...can these bones live?" He wisely replied "O Lord God, You know." He was asked to prophesy over the bones and say

*4 "O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. 5 Thus says the Lord God unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live: 6 And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord. 7 So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone."* (Ezekiel 37:4-7)

The Lord God then explained the vision. In verse 11 we read, "Son of man, these bones are **the whole house of Israel.**" Israel has been dead as a Nation for millennia and scattered abroad but God said that it will live again.

Some argue that this vision has already been fulfilled by the return from the Babylon exile. This is not possible and the reasons for it are contained in the words of Ezekiel. Verse 6 says that after this regathering "you shall know that I am the Lord." The tragic fact is that Israel does not yet know the Lord. If this was an historic event then they would already know the Lord, but they continue to reject their Messiah, our Lord Jesus Christ. Ezekiel's prophecy continues ...

*"21 Thus says the Lord God; Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land: 22 And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king to them all: and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all. 23 Neither shall they defile themselves any more with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions: but I will save them out of all their dwelling places, wherein they have sinned, and will cleanse them: so shall they be my people, and I will be their God."* (Ez 37:21-23)

Israel had been divided into two Kingdoms because of their disobedience but here we read that they will become one nation and shall be "cleansed" and be

"My (i.e. God's) people" with a KING. Whilst Israel today is one Nation other facts here prove it to be a future event. Much better things are promised for we read that the people of Israel shall "not defile themselves anymore... not with idols ... or any transgressions" for the Lord will "save them ... and will cleanse them: **so shall they be my people,** and I will be their God." This hasn't happened yet.

All of this provides clear evidence that these great promises have not yet come to pass, but they will. Israel is now back in their land after 2000 years of "wandering." The bones have "come together" but there is "no life in them yet." There is a definite progression of events in this prophecy. It's words do not imply an "instant" event but they rather reveal a sequence of happenings that, little by little, bring the nation of Israel to the promised cleansing by God, and the realisation of who Jesus really is.

This progression is easily seen in the next two chapters of Ezekiel which continue this revelation and will be covered in the following "Single Paged Papers." Each chapter tells parts of these coming momentous events that bring this national conversion of Israel to pass.

The final result will be that

*24 David my servant shall be king over them; and they all shall have one shepherd: they shall also walk in my judgments, and observe my statutes, and do them. 25 And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob my servant, wherein your fathers have dwelt; and they shall dwell therein, even they, and their children, and their children's children for ever: and my servant David shall be their prince for ever. 26 Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them: and I will place them, and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore. 27 My tabernacle also shall be with them: yes, I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 28 And the heathen shall know that I the Lord do sanctify Israel, when my sanctuary shall be in the midst of them for evermore.* (Ezekiel 37: 24-28)

If words have a defined meaning, and the promises of God mean what they say, then you cannot dismiss the plain words and promises spoken here by our Holy God Himself.

# Are The End Times Near? The Invasion Of Israel



The ancient prophet Ezekiel made many pronouncements that have not yet come to pass. One of them concerns the invasion of Israel by a considerable force of nations allied against Israel. God addresses Himself to this invading coalition and says through the prophet Ezekiel in chapter 38.

*"8 ... in the latter years you shall come into the land (Israel) that is brought back from the sword, and is gathered out of many people, against the mountains of Israel, which have been always waste: but it is brought forth out of the nations, and they shall dwell safely all of them." (Ez 38:8)*

Chapters 38 and 39 of Ezekiel describe a coalition of Nations that includes Russia, Iran and various other nations to the north and south of Israel. It is beyond the scope of this short paper to provide the evidence that supports the identities of these attacking groups. But the threats continue. In 2018 Iran plans to hold "*the first ever International Hourglass Festival... its logo (above) shows a disintegrating Star of David above the words '25 Years', a reference to predictions by Iran's top leadership that Israel would cease to exist*" in that time frame.

We are told that Israel

1. Is going to be attacked by many nations in the latter years
2. Israel will then be a land that has been brought back from the sword
3. Israel will then be a nation that has recovered from being a wasteland
4. The population of Israel will have been gathered from many nations.

The first thing to note is that this attack has not yet occurred. Israel was destroyed as a nation in AD 70 and, until 1948, did not exist. Modern Israel may be fairly described as a "*Nation brought back from the sword*" and indeed brought back from oblivion.

Israel was a wasteland for millennia. In 1878 the **Berlin Congress of Nations** was held. Benjamin Disraeli, the only Jewish man to ever be England's Prime Minister, lobbied for the interests of the scattered Jewish people. England was given a Protectorate over Turkey's middle east provinces, including "Palestine." Under this agreement the Jewish people were permitted to buy land there. Funds were raised and that led to the founding of the first Hebrew settlement named *Petah Tikva*.

*Petah Tikva* is a Hebrew term and it means "**Opening of Hope.**" That name was chosen by the Jewish people and they are the Hebrew words taken directly from the prophecy of Hosea.

*"And I will give her vineyards from thence, and the Valley of Achor for an opening of hope:* (In

*Hebrew petah tikva) and she shall sing there, as in the days of her youth, and as in the day when she came up out of the land of Egypt."* (Hosea 2:15)

The choice of the name *Petah Tikva*, shows that many of the Jewish people, then and now, place great credibility in the Old Testament Scriptures. The first recorded attack on the Jewish settlers took place in Petah Tikva in 1886 and many more have followed. Today Petah Tikva is the second-largest industrial sector in Israel.

As we know, Israel was reformed as a Nation in 1948. It was immediately attacked, but those attacks are **not** those described by Ezekiel. Israel today is a thriving society and has extensive farming and is no longer a wasteland. The people of Israel today have been regathered from many Nations as prophesied. The attack described by Ezekiel was therefore not possible before 1948 and in fact was not possible before 1967. Here is why.

In Ezekiel 39 God is speaking to the attacking Nations whom He will destroy and He says  
*I will turn you around and drag you along. I will bring you from the far north and send you against the mountains of Israel. 3 Then I will strike your bow from your left hand and make your arrows drop from your right hand. 4 On the mountains of Israel you will fall, you and all your troops and the nations with you.*

It was through the 1967 Six Day War that Israel took possession of "*the mountains of Israel.*" These days it is known as "*the West Bank*" and Jerusalem is a part of that area. We read that this attacking force will be destroyed "*On the mountains of Israel*" and those mountains were not a part of Israel until 1967. That is why the attack was not possible until 1967.

This is more evidence that the End Times are coming upon us for this prophecy is said to take place "*in the latter years.*" None of these events could have happened before 1967 and we are now daily witnessing the setting of the stage.

The conditions mentioned by Ezekiel are now in place. Some of the very nations Ezekiel said would attack Israel actively hate Israel and many of them are constantly threatening to "*annihilate*" it.

The *latter years* are now upon us, just as the ancient prophets foretold. Modern history and world events are opening up those things that were "*closed and sealed till the time of the end*" as Daniel was inspired to say, **and you are a witness to these things.**

# Are The End Times Near?

## Destruction Awaits

### The Invaders Of Israel

*"... I am against you... You shall fall upon the mountains of Israel"*

We have just seen how the nation of Israel has been attacked by a coalition of forces. God says to the invaders,

*"... I am against you... You shall fall upon the mountains of Israel, you, and all your bands, and the people with you: I will give you unto the ravenous birds of every sort, and to the beasts of the field to be devoured. You shall fall upon the open field: for I have spoken it, says the Lord God."* (Ezekiel 39: 1-5)

That more or less confirms what we already know and it reiterates the fact that this is an unmistakable judgment of God. God also says

*And I will bring him to judgment with pestilence and bloodshed; I will rain down on him, on his troops, and on the many peoples who are with him, flooding rain, great hailstones, fire, and brimstone.* (Ezekiel 38:22)

One imagines that such overwhelming destruction would surely be enough to convince a skeptical world. As a result of this destruction God says

*"Thus I will magnify Myself and sanctify Myself, and I will be known in the eyes of many nations. Then they shall know that I am the Lord."* (Ezekiel 38:23)

This tells us that, "many nations" will realise that it is the hand of the Lord, but not all. Our hearts are so hardened, our instincts so evil, our mindset so against God that even such a display of God's mighty power and justice is not enough to convince all people. **Neither was the cross.** But this intervention by God does have a wonderful effect upon Israel.

*"So will I make my holy name known in the midst of my people Israel; and I will not let them pollute my holy name any more: and the heathen shall know that I am the Lord, the Holy One in Israel. Behold, it is come, and it is done, says the Lord God; this is the day whereof I have spoken."* (Ezekiel 39:7-8)

Perhaps we cannot imagine how the survivors in Israel will feel, but we are told what they do. It will take seven years for the people of Israel to clean up and bury the dead. The deceased invaders will be given "graves in Israel" and the stench of death "shall stop the noses" of all. "And seven months shall the house of Israel be burying them, that they may cleanse the land ... And they shall call out men into continual employment...to bury (and) to cleanse the land." (Ezekiel 39:11-16 selected)

God is glorified by this strange event. Many spiritual things are gained. **"And I will set my glory among the heathen, and all the heathen shall see my judgment that I have executed, and my hand that I have laid upon them. 22: So the house of Israel shall know that I am the Lord their God from that day and forward."**

(Ezekiel 39: 21-22)

All the heathen see this and understand that it is of the Lord and it is not lost on the Islamists either. Can you imagine any bigger news than this? What a series of headlines it will create and God will be glorified. The heathen (including Moslems) come to understand many things through this event, and so does Israel viz ...

*"And the heathen shall know that the house of Israel went into captivity for their iniquity: because they trespassed against Me... Therefore thus says the Lord God; Now will I ... have mercy upon the whole house of Israel, and will be jealous for my holy name; ... Then shall (Israel) know that I am the Lord their God, which caused them to be led into captivity among the heathen: but I have gathered them unto their own land, and have left none of them any more there. Neither will I hide my face any more from them: for I have poured out my spirit upon the house of Israel, says the Lord God."*

(Ezekiel 39: 23-29 selected)

When is it all going to happen? Is it the precursor to the second coming of the Lord? The simple answer is that the Lord's coming can happen any day, *no one knows the day or the hour* of the Lord's return when Christ suddenly appears to take away the saints of God in the event called the rapture. What we may be sure of is that anyone born before 1948 is the generation who have witnessed Israel coming back into their land after 2000 years "*in the wilderness.*" The significance of this event cannot be overstated.

The very nations that God says will attack Israel are daily threatening Israel. In a short series like this we cannot go into all the detail that identifies these nations but they include Russia, Iran, and many Islamic countries including Turkey. Israel is hated and vilified by most of these countries already and the enemies of Israel are not shy and boast of their desire to *annihilate* them. Satan is preparing his forces, it is all happening. The main question is, **are we ready for the return of the Lord?**

# *Are The End Times Near?*

## **“Perilous Times Shall Come”**

**“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.  
For men shall be lovers of themselves ...”** (2 Timothy 3)

When you read the following inspired words you will discover that they have a certain “ring of truth” to them. Timothy is describing the “*last days*” and it is also a fair description of our world today.

*“1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. 2 For men shall be lovers of themselves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 Without natural affection, truce-breakers, false accusers, incontinent (i.e. without self-control), fierce, despisers of those that are good, 4 Traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; 5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.”* (2 Timothy 3:1-5).

There is much to observe in these verses. Firstly Timothy describes the “*last days*” as being full of “*self interest*”, i.e. “*lovers of themselves*.” Today we have made an industry of “*self love*”. We are offered all sorts of “*courses*” that are designed to bring about the very world that Timothy described. These “*courses*” are readily available on-line ...

- *Getting What You Want: Assertive Communication Skills*
- *Get Confidence and Gain Control Today*
- *Double Your Confidence and Self Esteem.*

The above are the names of courses available right now and there are many more. This is our world today, and it sounds suspiciously like the one that Timothy described.

Did Jesus teach this love of self? No! He taught self-denial, washing the feet of others, humility. “*The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control...*” (Galatians 5:22-23), and these very pleasing attributes come from following the Lord, not from the pursuit of selfish pleasures.

Hedonism, *the pursuit of pleasure; sensual self-indulgence* is the way of the world today. Our western world is intent on sensual pleasures of all types. In the endless fields of entertainment we are offered relatively harmless things, and much that is totally destructive. Movies and TV programs are full of violence and pornography as never before.

Timothy declares that people in the last days will be *blasphemers*. It was not long ago that blasphemy was never heard in films and on TV, but even advertisements feature blasphemy and all sorts of crudeness these days. The name of God is used as a curse word today, but it was not always so.

We cannot go through the entire list that Timothy suggests, but if you read it again it will be obvious that it describes the world as we know it. Any of the older generation will tell you that our world was not like this, even just a few decades ago. The passage assures us that “*perilous times shall come.*” What causes these perilous times? The list of sin that Timothy presents reveals two things

- how the world will be in the *last days* and
- what it is that creates those *perilous times*.

**The causes are the sins themselves, selfishness, hedonism, and the pursuit of pleasure at all costs. These sins are the causes of the perilous times, and the perilous times are the effects of that cause.**

But Timothy’s list goes on to make an even more shocking announcement. He places many of these people within the organised Church itself. He writes that they are, “*lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; (and) having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.*” (2 Timothy 3: 1-5) Timothy cannot be talking about the “*world at large*” who do not pretend “*godliness*,” so he is talking about the Church. This should shock us but sadly it is not all that surprising if we look at some of the “*happenings*” in the modern “church.”

The Calvary Baptist Church in Washington was formerly a *Southern Baptist Convention Church*. The *Southern Baptists* were known for their fundamentalist beliefs. One of their *Basic Beliefs* is this: *Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime.*

Calvary Baptist Washington have recently been kicked out of the *Southern Baptist Convention*. This is from the website of that “kicked out” Church.

*Sunday, January 8, 2017, at a Special Business Meeting following worship by unanimous vote Rev. Maria Swearingen and Rev. Sally Sarratt were called to serve as Senior Ministers and Co-Pastors. They are scheduled to begin their service at Calvary Baptists Sunday, February 26. (<http://calvarydc.org/meet-our-ministers/>)*

These female “*Pastors*” are “*married*” to each other. Timothy warns that this type of Church would come in the *last days* and describes it as being

“*lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; (and) having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.*”

**The Lord always gives wise advice.**

# Glossary Of Terms Used

## BDS Acronym

This is an organisation that is working to oppose any type of support for national Israel. **BDS** stands for **B**oycott, **D**ivest, **S**anction. So, in many ways, proponents of BDS seek the economic destruction of Israel.

- **Boycott** involves withdrawing all support for Israel, and Israelis, and from international companies that trade with Israel.
- **Divestment** involves urging banks, local councils, churches, pension funds and universities to withdraw investments from Israel and all Israeli companies.
- **Sanction** mean pressuring governments to end military trade and free-trade agreements and to expel Israel from international forums such as the UN and even FIFA, the international football association.

Some Churches in the US have joined the BDS movement such as The Presbyterian Church USA, the United Church of Christ. Several Quaker bodies have voted to divest from Israeli and international companies targeted by the BDS movement.

## Replacement Theology aka Supersessionism

This is a doctrine that promotes the idea that God is now and forever finished with Israel. Israel has been “*replaced by the Church*” and so the promises to Israel now devolve upon the Church. It is the basis of the doctrines of the Anglicans, the Roman Catholics, the Presbyterians, some Baptist Churches, the Uniting Church and others. This whole subject is dealt with in another series of these “*Single Paged Papers*.” Click here: <https://www.thesinglepagedpapers.com/replacement-theology>

## The Great Tribulation also known as “The time of Jacob’s trouble.” (Jeremiah 30:7)

The above two terms are used in Scripture to describe this period of turmoil and destruction that comes upon the whole of the earth. It is “*a time of great fear and trembling*” when “*men’s hearts fail them for fear*.” It is a time when God’s wrath will be poured out on wicked mankind. It leads to the glorious moment when Israel at last recognise Jesus as their Messiah. From that moment on the Lord fights for Israel.