



*"Blow ye the trumpet in Zion,
and sound an alarm in my holy
mountain: let all the inhabitants
of the land tremble: for the day
of the LORD cometh, for it is
nigh at hand;" Joel 2:1*

November 2012

Growing Oaks or Ears of Popcorn

The church must claim again her ancient dowry of everlastingness. She must begin again to deal with ages and millenniums rather than with days and years. She must not count numbers but test foundations. She must work for permanence rather than for appearance. Her children must seek those enduring things that have been touched with immortality. The shallow brook of popular religion chatters on its nervous way and thinks the ocean too quiet and dull because it lies deep in its mighty bed and is unaffected by the latest shower. Faith in one of its aspects moves mountains; in another it gives patience to see the promises afar off and to wait quietly for their fulfillment. Insistence upon an immediate answer to every request of the soul is an evidence of religious infantilism. It takes God longer to grow an oak than to grow an ear of popcorn. It will cost something to walk slow in the parade of the ages while excited men of time rush about confusing motion with progress. But it will pay in the long run--and the true Christian is not much interested in anything short of that.

A.W. Tozer (1897-1963)

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Sound the Trumpet!

- Section 1 -

THE FIVE RESURRECTIONS OF ISRAEL

The prophets warned that Israel would be scattered throughout the world for their unbelief and disobedience.

Nationally they would be dead. Ezekiel pictured them as dry bones in a valley, what could be deader than dry bones?

The prophets also foretold that Israel would be brought back to life nationally and that they would be restored to their own land.

In Luke 19:41 we read about Jesus in Jerusalem, *"And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it."* Jesus loved the city of Jerusalem and the Jewish people. It is now the year 32 AD. Our Lord knows that Israel has rejected Him.

He knows the kingdom is to be postponed. He knows that in less than forty years Jerusalem will be destroyed, sacked and burned. He knows that nearly a million Jews will die within the city walls and that hundreds of thousands will die outside the city. He

knows that nearly a million will be carried captives in chains to foreign lands.

"He beheld the city and wept over it." Why did He weep? Verse 42 explains it. *"Saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes."* To paraphrase, if you had only known! Destruction is coming upon Jerusalem and the Temple, the people of Israel will be decimated. You could have known, its' all prophesied in My Word. You didn't read and study My Word, you don't understand because you didn't study My Word. You weren't interested in My Word.

"But now they are hidden from thine eyes." That is a great principle in God's Word. If you do not avail yourself of the truth God has revealed in His Word, you are in danger of having God close your eyes to that truth.

During the first return from Babylon only 50,000 Jews returned. In the last sixty years a steady stream of about six million Jews have made their way back to Israel from about 130 nations of the world.

What should they have read and studied? What portion of God's Word foretold the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple? They should have studied Daniel 9:25,26 *"Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined."*

Daniel foretold the exact time when Messiah would come and die. After the command to rebuild the walls of

Jerusalem in 445 BC, there would be 69 weeks of years, which equals 483 years or 183,880 days. Then it says, *"Shall Messiah be cut off."*

Then Daniel said after Messiah dies, *"the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary (Temple)."*

There are many lessons from Daniel 9:25, 26 but the lesson I want you to see is that, God foretold Israel through His Word the time the second Temple would be destroyed, long before it happened. Jesus weeps over Jerusalem, you could have known, you should have known.

Understand; God delights to share and warn His people through the prophetic word about that which is going to happen. This principle also applies to the hour in which we are now living. Our world is facing a similar period of judgement and men and women are

unaware of it. They could know if they had not neglected to search God's Word. Our generation has turned away from God's Word and will bear a similar fate as Israel in 70 AD.

Let us think for a moment about God's revelation of these things to Daniel. It is approximately 536 BC. Daniel is in captivity with Israel in Babylon. He is reading and studying his Bible, as he does that he discovers the time has arrived for the captivity to end and the time for the second Temple to be built.

He is reading in Jeremiah 25:11, "And this whole land shall be desolation, and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years." And he reads in chapter 29:10, "For thus saith the LORD, that after seventy years be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place."

Daniel begins to count - 606 BC to 536 BC equals 70 years, the captivity is about to end and the Temple is about to be rebuilt.

Do you suppose that just maybe God would reveal in His Word the timing of the building of the third Temple and the tribulation period that is concurrent with it? The answer is that God has done just that!

2,500 years ago through the prophet Jeremiah, God has made it possible for Israel to recognize the time of the building of the third Temple, the tribulation period which is involved and the Millennial Kingdom which follows.

In Jeremiah 31, God gives a list of us five things which will come to pass and signal the coming Millennial Kingdom, the tribulation period that will precede it, and the building of the third Temple required for the tribulation period, according to scripture.

THE RESURRECTION OF THE:

1. PEOPLE
2. LAND
3. LANGUAGE
4. BELIEF
5. TEMPLE

1. THE RESURRECTION OF THE PEOPLE

God said through Jeremiah 2,500 years ago, to paraphrase, just before I come to establish the kingdom for Israel, I will re-gather or resurrect My people from around the world where I have scattered them. Jeremiah 31:8, "Behold, I will bring them from the north country, and gather them from the coasts of the earth, and with them the blind and the lame, the woman with child and her that travaileth with child together: a great company shall return thither."

That could only be true of our own day. "I will bring them from the north country," In the decade of the nineties over one million Jews arrived in Israel from Russia in the north.

During the first return from Babylon only 50,000 Jews returned. In the last sixty years a steady stream of about six million Jews have made their way back to Israel from about 130 nations of the world.

Jeremiah 31:9-10, "They shall come with weeping, and with supplications will I lead them: I will cause them to walk by the rivers of waters in a straight way, wherein they shall not stumble: for I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. Hear the word of the LORD, O ye nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, **He that scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him, as a shepherd doth his flock.**"

We have witnessed Bible prophecy being fulfilled in a miraculous way in our lifetime before our very eyes. That promise was never fulfilled in the past, though Israel returned from both Egypt and Babylon, the present return is unquestionably unique. Israel's final return is peculiar to modern day Israel, in spite of the fact that this return will not be totally consummated until the close of the tribulation period. Today only one half of the world's Jews are in Israel.

In 70 AD Israel was scattered throughout the nations of the world. Now in our day Israel has returned to the land. It started as a trickle 100 years ago and has now become a torrent of six million Jews.

2. THE RESURRECTION OF THE LAND

The Lord said to Jeremiah 2,500 years ago when I get ready to bring in the kingdom, I will resurrect the land. Jeremiah 31:12, "Therefore they shall come and sing in the height of Zion, and shall flow together to the goodness of the LORD, for wheat, and for wine, and for oil, and for the young of the flock and of the herd: and their soul shall be as a watered garden; and they shall not sorrow any more at all."

It is amazing how the land of Israel has been restored. Until the return of Israel the land was a barren wasteland. Isaiah describes what has happened in the last five or six decades, we read in Isaiah 35:1, "The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose."

"...the solitary place shall be glad for them;" Today it is as if the barren sands of Israel are glad to receive the people of Israel back in the land, as the soil suddenly turns productive. The UN has declared the soil in Israel the most productive in the world.

"...the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose..." That is exactly what has happened! Today in the wintertime Israel is the breadbasket of Europe. A large percentage of Europe's fruit and vegetables come from Israel. Holland imports a large quantity of flowers from Israel. Israel is also a large exporter of cotton. Hillsides which were once dry shifting sands are now terraced vineyards. A land that was treeless for long centuries now has a problem with forest fires.

Where they only have salt water available, they have developed plants that thrive on salt water. They have mastered the art of irrigation in desert places and are growing several crops a year in the process. It is a miracle of fulfilled prophecy in our own day, a resurrected land to go with a resurrected people.

On the same land the Palestinians can't duplicate what Israel has done. In the last number of years the nations of the world have poured in the largest amount of aid in all of history to the Palestinians to help them develop the land. It has been a total fiasco. The Palestinians have to work in Israel to survive. Why? The Palestinians are not the people of the land. God's hand is

upon Israel as He promised Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

3. THE RESURRECTION OF THE LANGUAGE

Jeremiah 31:23, *“Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; As yet they shall use this speech in the land of Judah and in the cities thereof, when I shall bring again their captivity; The LORD bless thee, O habitation of justice, and mountain of holiness.”*

“This speech” The speech in view is Hebrew, the language of ancient Israel. For 1900 years Hebrew was a dead language. It was not spoken anywhere in the world. Even when the first Jews returned to the land, it was not used, not until Israel became nation again in 1948.

The Lord raised up a man named Ben Yahudda who recovered and re-established the Hebrew language.

Today the language of Israel is Hebrew. It is written and spoken in the schools, universities, in the army, in the newspapers, in the parliament, in the stores, in the streets and on the signs. Such a thing has never happened in all of human history, an ancient lost language recovered and used again.

But God said, *“...they shall use this speech in the land of Judah and in the cities thereof, when I shall bring again their captivity...”* We can count on God’s Word being fulfilled.

A resurrected language is a sign of the nearness of tribulation period and the re-built Temple.

4. THE RESURRECTION OF BELIEF

In Ezekiel in chapter 37 we have a picture of Israel during the time of the dispersion. In that picture we see Israel spiritually dead and scattered among the nations over the long years of the dispersion.

In verses 1-3 we have that picture, *“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, 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. And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord GOD, thou knowest.”

Then we have the stages of Israel’s return as seen in verse 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 ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the LORD.”* They returned to the land as spiritually dry bones in unbelief. Many Israelis returned to Israel in a spirit of anger against God as they blamed God for the holocaust.

About 10-15 years ago it really seemed that Judaism would vanish for lack of interest among the Jews. Today there is an unprecedented revival of Judaism sweeping Jews all around the world. Not salvation, but a searching out of their roots in Judaism. Yeshivas are springing up all over Israel, to study the Torah. Not just the elite, but all classes of Jews, a great revival of Judaism is underway.

Now in Israeli schools from grade eight up they are teaching the New Testament, this was previously unthinkable. The motive is to capitalize on the tourist dollars. But that does not change the fact that God is getting them ready to receive the gospel.

That is the sinew, flesh and skin coming upon the bones, the breath has not yet come into them. They have not yet come alive spiritually. That won’t happen until late in the tribulation period. But we have here another miraculous sign of the nearness of the coming kingdom preceded by the tribulation period and the third Temple.

5. THE RESURRECTION OF THE TEMPLE

Jeremiah 31:38, *“Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that the city shall be built to the LORD from the tower of Hananeel unto the gate of the corner.”* The old city of Jerusalem as described in this verse was regained by Israel in 1967. The Lord returned the old city for their occupation after 1900 years. The purpose is for the rebuilding of the Temple which will play an important part in the tribulation period leading up to the kingdom.

All of the preparations for the Temple are now in place. The vessels are made, 3000 harps have been crafted for the Temple orchestra. Priests have been trained, at least a thousand. Priestly garments are on display, a model and plans for the Temple have been prepared. The actual building of the Temple has been authorized; it is mandated to be built in sections for quick assembly. A room for the Sanhedrin to meet has been prepared near the Temple Mount.

The rebuilding of the Temple is closely associated with the coming of the false Messiah, the Antichrist. Orthodox Jews maintain that the Temple will not be built until Messiah comes. However, we understand from Daniel 9:27 that Israel will be deceived into believing that Antichrist is their Messiah.

It seems that the building of the Temple and the appearance of Antichrist is near at hand, which would put the rapture nearer still, as Antichrist cannot appear until the church is raptured, according to 2 Thessalonians 2:6-8.

THE APPLICATION

Multiplied millions are unaware of what the prophetic scripture teach about the coming of Christ and the coming tribulation period. They could know if they studied God’s Word. They are danger of being swept away in the catastrophic judgment of the soon coming tribulation period.

Israel is also in jeopardy because they once again have not studied the Word of God and are ignorant of that which is soon to befall Israel. We see that coming judgment upon Israel in Zechariah 13:8-9, *“And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein. And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God.”*

Art Sadlier

Jesus is coming soon, are you ready?

THE BATTLE FOR JERUSALEM

The word JERUSALEM appears in the King James Bible 767 times. It shows that the nations do not have the right to partition the land of Israel; the land of Israel is a gift from God to Abraham and to his descendants forever. *"And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee. And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God"* (Genesis 17:7-8).

It is shocking to hear what the nations are saying about Israel's right to the Promised Land.

On October 16, 2012, the Obama Administration reiterated its position that Jews must not be allowed to build and live on their ancient biblical heartland for the sake of peace in the region.

Speaking before the UN Security Council, US Ambassador Susan Rice stated that the White House *"does not accept the legitimacy of Israeli settlement activity, and will continue to oppose any efforts to legalize [Jewish] outposts."*

Though technically the territories of Judea and Samaria are disputed, the US and other Western powers set no such limits on the Arab population's rampant construction.

Rice went on to suggest that the Jewish presence in Judea and Samaria, which the world calls "**THE WEST BANK**", is a detriment to the international community's plan to solve the conflict by birthing a Palestinian Arab state.

Mitt Romney has also taken the same position. The USA is defying Jehovah God, they are saying to the Lord of Israel *"You can take a jump in the lake; we don't care what you say."* The American administration has joined all the other nations of the world in declaring war on God."

The nations of the world are saying in effect to God, *"What are you going to do about it?"*

The Bible shows that Jerusalem will be in the eye of the storm in the last days. Welcome to the last days! *"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" (Zechariah 12:2).

Meanwhile Islamists continue to agitate for the assault on Jerusalem.

The supreme guide of the Muslim Brotherhood, the movement which Egypt's President Mohamed Morsi belongs to, called on Thursday, October 12, for a jihad (holy war) to liberate Jerusalem from Israeli rule.

"Jerusalem is Islamic ... and nobody is entitled to make concessions" on the Holy City, said Sheikh Mohammed Badie in his weekly message to supporters, according AFP.

"The jihad for the recovery of Jerusalem is a duty for all Muslims," he said, stressing that the liberation of the Holy City *"will not be done through negotiations or at the United Nations."*

Islam is determined to wrest control of Jerusalem from Jewish hands. They also are defying God. Scripture reveals that in two soon coming wars, the God of Israel will bring an awesome judgment on these enemies of Israel. We live in an hour when the prophecies of Zechariah are falling into place, prophecies concerning the coming great attack on Jerusalem.

Though America has supported Israel in the past there is a reversal of American support now underway. According to news reports, Henry Kissinger and sixteen American intelligence agencies agree that in the near future, Israel will no longer exist. This is wishful thinking which they will strive to bring about.

The New York Post quotes Kissinger "word for word": *"In 10 years, there will be no more Israel."*

Kissinger's statement is flat and unqualified. He is not saying that Israel is in danger, but could be saved if we just gave it additional trillions of dollars and smashed enough of its enemies with our military. He is not saying that if we elect Netanyahu's old friend Mitt Romney, Israel could somehow be salvaged. He is not saying that if we bomb Iran, Israel might survive. He is not offering a way out. He is simply stating what he believes is a fact: In 2022, Israel will no longer exist.

The US Intelligence Community agrees, though perhaps not on the precise

2022 expiration date. Sixteen US intelligence agencies with a combined budget over USD70 billion have issued an 82-page analysis titled "PREPARING FOR A POST-ISRAEL MIDDLE EAST."

The sixteen US intelligence agencies agree that Israel cannot withstand the coming pro-Palestinian juggernaut consisting of the Arab Spring, the Islamic Awakening, and the rise of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The following quote is a ridiculous justification of Iran's commitment to eliminate Israel.

"In the past, dictatorships in the region kept a lid on the pro-Palestinian aspirations of their people. But those dictatorships began to topple with the fall of the pro-Israel Shah of Iran in 1979 and the establishment of a democratic Islamic Republic, whose government had little choice but to reflect its people's opposition to Israel. The same process, the overthrow of dictators who worked with, or at least tolerated, Israel, is now accelerating throughout the region. The result will be governments that are more democratic, more Islamic, and far less friendly to Israel."

The US intelligence community report says that in light of these realities, the US government simply no longer has the military and financial resources to continue propping up Israel against the wishes of more than a billion of its neighbours. In order to normalize relations with 57 Islamic countries, the report suggests, the US will have to follow its own national interests and pull the plug on Israel.

Interestingly, neither Henry Kissinger nor the authors of the US Intelligence Report give any sign that they are going to mourn the demise of Israel.

The whole present world system is under the control of Satan and he is leading the members of his kingdom to destroy God's chosen people. Jesus said of Satan, *"...the prince of this world cometh..."* (John 14:30). By the permissive will of God Satan is the ruler of this present evil world's system. At salvation the new believer is transferred out of Satan's kingdom and

into the kingdom of Christ *"Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son"* (Colossians 1:13).

We are facing the final battles of the great conflict between God and Satan. This coming escalating conflict will involve three major wars, one prior to the beginning of the tribulation period and one closely following it and the final and closing battle of Armageddon. Those final battles will be centred upon Israel and Jerusalem, the stage is now being set.

Joel describes that final scene in Joel 3:1, 2, 16, *"For, behold, in those days, and in that time, when I shall bring again the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem, I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead (judge) with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land. The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the LORD will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel."* John gives us further insight into this battle in Revelation 19:11-15, 21.

As we look out on the world today we see the preparations underway for all three of these wars.

Another aspect of this conflict is centered in apostate Christianity. Fifteen leaders of US churches and other faith-based organizations have asked Congress to re-evaluate US military aid to Israel. *"As Christian leaders in the United States, it is our moral responsibility to question the continuation of unconditional US financial assistance to the government of Israel."*

"We write to you as Christian leaders representing US churches and religious organizations committed to seeking a just peace for Israelis and Palestinians," the letter said that their organizations have, *"Worked alongside our Palestinian Christian sisters and brothers to help build a peaceful and resilient Palestinian civil society."*

Apostate Christianity is opposed to God's will and God's purposes for Israel; it is no longer the Church of Jesus Christ. It is using its influence to help turn America against Israel.

Islam is now also beginning to exercise influence within America to turn Americans against Israel.

On November 22-25, activists with links to the Muslim Brotherhood and Hamas will come together at the Oak Brook Hills Marriott Resort in Illinois in an endeavour entitled, American Muslims for Palestine's (AMP) Conference for Palestine in the U.S.

The event also highlights the Islamists' success in forging interfaith partnerships with Reverend Donald Wagner of *"Evangelicals for Middle East Understanding"* as one of the speakers.

American Muslims for Palestine isn't just about Palestinian statehood. It's about the elimination of Israel. Michael Rubin points out that, *"Its home page depicts the conference logo—a map of Palestine made from birds showing the Palestinian state encompassing all of Israel, so much for the two-state solution."*

The conference, which has Turkish Airlines as a sponsor, features some of the top Brotherhood-linked speakers.

On a wider scale anti-Semitism is growing world-wide. In France, a burgeoning Muslim population has been the primary culprit behind a 45 percent increase in anti-Semitic attacks over the past year.

In neighboring Belgium, *"Death to the Jews"* was spray-painted on a Brussels synagogue, and across the continent in Ukraine, a Jewish doctor was mercilessly slain by three Muslims.

Anti-Semitism is nothing new in Europe, but the problem is not contained there.

At the same time anti-Semites were attacking Jews in Paris, Malmo and Ukraine, Nazi-sympathizing vandals desecrated the bulk of the tombstones in a Jewish cemetery in Auckland, New Zealand, while in Montreal Canada, masked assailants firebombed a kosher restaurant.

From the most surprising places monstrous lies are being perpetuated to discredit Israel and Israelis. Significant representatives of the US Intelligence Community are boldly stating that Israel was responsible for the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Center. They allege that Israel was seeking to influence America; they claim it was a Zionist plot to turn America against Islam.

Even those who claim to be working for human rights and peace in the Middle East have provided a platform for and helped disseminate virulent anti-Semitic rhetoric.

Earlier this month, Greta Berlin, the American woman who heads the Free Gaza Movement, wrote on her Twitter account that *"Zionists operated the [Nazi] concentration camps and helped murder millions of innocent Jews."*

The Washington Free Beacon has obtained a report soon to be released by the United Nations that calls for an international campaign of legal attacks and economic warfare on a group of American companies who do business in Israel, including Hewlett-Packard, Caterpillar Inc., and Motorola Solutions Inc.

At the same time the EU is calling for a ban on the import of all goods produced by Israelis in Judea and Samaria, the so called West Bank. A new report by aid development and church groups from nine European Union (EU) countries calls for the EU to stop buying goods from Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Jewish businesses in East Jerusalem.

Meanwhile the world is indifferent as Iran is perilously close to obtaining nuclear bombs to fulfill her pledge to wipe Israel off the map.

The whole world seems to be coming to the place where Israel and Israelis are believed to be responsible for all of the world's problems; they imply that the elimination of Israel would result in a peaceful more just world.

The only peace this world will ever know will come when the Lord Jesus Christ rules the world from the throne of David in Jerusalem. *"He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end"* (Luke 1:32-33).

We live in a world that is at war with God, and the objects of the enemies of God are the people of God. What the world does not know or understand is that when this war with God is over there will not be a living unbeliever left alive on the face of the earth. You can choose whose side you are on, I have already made up my mind.

Art Sadlier

THE MAN CALLED THE BEAST

God said in Genesis 18:17, *“And the LORD said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do”* (Genesis 18:17). The Lord was saying, will I tell Abraham about the future, the answer came back yes as the Lord proceeded to do just that. It is a part of the nature of God to reveal to His own children that which He will do in the future, to reveal in prophecy what will happen before it happens.

Approximately 25 percent of the Bible was prophetic when it was written. There are 1527 Old Testament passages referring to the second coming. In the light of these prophecies conservative Bible scholars plainly assert that we are living in the final hour of the Church age. The world is speeding toward its' ultimate date with destiny. Every day that passes moves us closer to the end. The people of planet earth have a divine appointment to keep. As the clock of time ticks away, mankind comes closer and closer and closer to the final hour of this present world system. All the warnings signs are ignored, including the super-storm Sandy.

Satan is also preparing for that final act in the drama or the *“age of man.”* Satan is preparing a man, his man, the *“man of sin”* who will dominate the earth for seven years prior to Christ's return to reclaim the earth.

Scripture calls this man the *“Little Horn”* - *“Willful King”* - *“King of Fierce Countenance”* - *“Son of Perdition”* - *“Antichrist.”* He is also called the *“Beast,”* actually both this man and his kingdom are called beasts.

Antichrist means opposed to Christ or a substitute Christ. This man of sin will be both.

This deceiver will sign a peace treaty with Israel and the world, guaranteeing peace and security for seven years. The tribulation begins with Israel saying *“peace and safety.”* The longing of Israelis for the last two thousand years has been for peace and safety; that longing has heightened in recent years.

To Israel, he will present himself as their Messiah. Though he is not a Jew, (Daniel 9:26 clearly indicates he will be a Roman) Israel will receive him as

Messiah because God will give them a delusion to believe a lie. *“And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie”* (2 Thessalonians 2:11).

The root cause of this divine deception is found in verse 10, *“And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.”* To turn away from truth brings deception. Israel rejected their Messiah and they still do today. Jesus said, *“I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another (Antichrist) shall come in his own name, him ye will receive”* (John 5:43).

How could Israel be so deceived? Not only will God send deception, but we read in 2 Thessalonians 2:9 that this man will receive great powers of deception from Satan. *“Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders.”* Power to deceive will be a part of Satan's program for Antichrist.

We believe that he will also deceive both Islam and unregenerate Christianity and that both of these groups are now being set up for that deception.

Please understand that there are two re-gatherings of Israel in the end times.

THE FIRST RE-GATHERING IS A GATHERING IN UNBELIEF

It precedes the tribulation period. We have witnessed that re-gathering in our lifetime. Yet only half of the world's Jews are in the land of Israel today.

In this first gathering God's purpose is to enter into judgment with Israel. *“And I will bring you out from the people, and will gather you out of the countries wherein ye are scattered, with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury (judgment) poured out”* (Ezekiel 20:34). Since the modern re-gathering of Israel God has blessed them in many ways, yet they have not had a moment's peace. They always seem to be on the brink of destruction. God has constantly placed their backs to the wall and then delivered them in order to draw their hearts back to Himself. God will yet pour out His anger

on Israel's unbelief. Our Lord referred to this coming time as the *“Time of Jacob's trouble.”*

THE SECOND RE-GATHERING, YET TO COME, WILL BE A GATHERING IN BELIEF

The Lord will come to set up the kingdom for Israel.

“And it shall come to pass in that day, that the great trumpet shall be blown, and they shall come which were ready to perish in the land of Assyria, and the outcasts in the land of Egypt, and shall worship the LORD in the holy mount at Jerusalem” (Isaiah 27:13). That has not happened yet.

And in Jeremiah 31:12 we read, *“Therefore they shall come and sing in the height of Zion, and shall flow together to the goodness of the LORD, for wheat, and for wine, and for oil, and for the young of the flock and of the herd: and their soul shall be as a watered garden; and they shall not sorrow any more at all.”*

That has not happened yet. Matthew 24:31, *“And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.”* That has not happened yet, but it will happen when the Lord comes to earth at the close of the tribulation period.

The purpose for the present re-gathering of Israel is that God might enter into judgment with her. Antichrist is God's instrument of judgment upon Israel. Zechariah 13:8, *“And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein.”* That is the work of Antichrist as he unknowingly accomplishes the purposes of God, bringing the judgment of God on unbelieving Israel.

Zechariah 13:9 is the work of God, *“And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God.”* That is also the major purpose of God for the tribulation period, to refine believing Israel and

bless them. Jesus warned about the beginning of this mid-tribulation destruction of Israel by Antichrist in Matthew 24:16, "Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains."

There are two attributes of God that are beyond the capacity of man to fully comprehend. One is the extent of the mercy and love and grace of God toward those who will recognize their sin and repent. The other is the hatred and anger of God against sin. Scripture tells us that the anger of God against sin will burn forever. We read in Jeremiah 17:4, ".....for ye have kindled a fire in mine anger, which shall burn forever." That is why hell is forever.

These two truths are captured in John 3:36, "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."

THE APPEARANCE OF THE BEAST

In Revelation 13:1 we read about the appearance of the beast. "And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy."

Remember both the kingdom of Antichrist and Antichrist himself are called a beast. You must discern by the context which is being referred to, the nature of a wild beast is used to describe both. In this verse the beast is an empire, an evil empire over which the Antichrist becomes the ruler. From the study of both Daniel and Revelation we know that the ten horns and the ten crowns represent the revived Roman Empire of the last days.

In verse two the designation of the term beast switches from the **empire** to the **man**. "And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority." Notice that the power of the beast comes directly from Satan.

We are today seeing the preparations being made for the appearance of both the beast and the kingdom of the beast.

For sixty years now Europe has looked for a powerful ruler to arise and lead them. Some thirty years ago Paul Henri Spaak, Secretary General of NATO

stated the following concerning the leadership of Europe.

"We do not need another committee; we have too many already – what we want is a man of sufficient stature to hold the allegiance of all people, and to lift us out of the morass into which we are sinking (more significant today than at that time). Send us such a man, and be he god or the devil, we will receive him."

On October 30, 2012 Tony Blair called for an elected leader who would be able to exercise great power over Europe. This is in reality a call for the appearance of Antichrist, a preparation for the arrival of Antichrist. The stage is being set for the man called the beast to appear on the scene in Europe.

At the same time the stage is being set for the empire of the beast to also appear on the world stage.

In an incredibly powerful interview, on October 26, MEP (Member European Parliament) Nigel Farage told King World News, "They even want to get euro-zone countries to change their constitutions, to write in their constitutions that they will obey all orders from Brussels." Farage also warned "So it is very, very difficult to ignore those voices who have been telling me for 20 years that behind all of this there are a group of people that want to create a one world government ... it's beginning to stare us in the face."

Farage continued, "We've reached a point in this where, despite the massive economic, political, and social problems that exist within the euro-zone, and indeed an argument that the North and the South of Europe are diverging by the day, despite all of that, the political class have got so much the upper hand in Brussels, that, actually, they are moving to more and more extreme tactics."

"(This is being done) to lock countries in to a new form of government which is so far removed from any concept of liberal democracy that I think it's quite frightening. So I really made the point yesterday (in Parliament) that all of these bailouts that we've seen, (were designed to have) they (the countries) get put directly under the command and control of the institutions of the European Union."

"And frankly, their prime ministers become puppets. And in terms of the people that want to create the European state, they are delighted. They would almost like everyone to go bankrupt and then they are really in charge...."

In the midst of all of the tension and problems in the EU, the stage is being set for a united Europe. This would be a united Europe which would eventually lead a world government. The world-wide economic and monetary problems are also facilitating this move to world government. We also know that there are powerful forces in the US that are working toward world government.

We read about the world-wide kingdom of Antichrist in Revelation 13:7 and 17. ".....power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.... 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."

David Rockefeller stated, "We are just waiting for the right crisis to establish world government."

I believe that is where these proponents of world government are today. When that crisis arrives the blocks will be quickly put into place.

As we look out at our world today it is not hard to see a soon coming crisis of great magnitude. We have the threat of a mega war in the Mideast involving Israel. That war has the potential for the use of chemical and biological weapons which are sitting in Syria ready to go. It also has the potential for the use of nuclear weapons by Israel and perhaps Iran. This war has the potential to spread widely in the Mideast with the possibility of a Sunni – Shiite conflict.

Along with that war mentioned above, we have the potential loss of oil supplies and an accompanying world-wide economic collapse which would bring men and nations to their knees. A desperate world would cry out for a superman to rescue them no matter neither the cost in lost sovereignty nor the cost in the loss of freedoms.

Nuclear proliferation is striking fear in the hearts of thinking people everywhere and is another reason for nations to surrender to a man who deceives them into believing he can bring peace and safety.

Along with that scenario, the world today is sitting on the potential for

numerous wars. We have the potential for war between China and Japan, between China and India, between China and Taiwan. We also have the potential for war between Iran and a number of possible countries, such as Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Turkey or the USA. Jesus said, in speaking about the last days, "And ye shall hear wars and rumours of wars...."

We have in Revelation 6:2 the indication that in such a time Antichrist will come riding on the world stage as a conquering hero and be crowned the world's leader by promising peace, and all without firing a shot. "And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he

went forth conquering, and to conquer."

Before Antichrist appears on the scene the rapture must take place. We are standing on the threshold of the rapture. What ought to be our occupation in the meantime?

Remember we are still under our Lord's commission to, "....Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."

We will not be held accountable to the lost for their lost condition, they are without excuse.

"For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are

without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened" (Romans 1:20, 21).

However, we who are followers of Christ will be held accountable to our Lord for our stewardship of the gospel. When we stand at the judgment seat of Christ I believe He will look us in the eye and say, give me an account of how you obeyed or disobeyed my command to declare the gospel. Many of us will be forced to say that we feared man more than God?

There will be eternal rewards, or the loss of eternal rewards. Art Sadlier

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

In Ezekiel 38-39 we have the prophecy of the early tribulation attack on Israel by Russia and a great alliance of Mideast Muslim nations. In Ezekiel 38:5-6 the nations of this alliance are named and are easily identifiable in the world today. The prophecy states that Russia (Magog) and her leader (Gog) will lead this alliance and that God will put a hook in her jaw to draw her down into Israel. The Lord's purpose is to bring judgment on Russia and her Muslim allies who are committed to wiping Israel off the map.

We are told in this chapter that Russia will come to "take a spoil" and to "take a prey" both of these phrases are repeated twice in the chapter. For many years Bible students wondered what this spoil could possibly be. It seemed for years that Israel as a barren land had little to attract Russia to come and take a spoil. In the last few years things have greatly changed.

It is now reported that Israel is sitting 250 billion barrels of oil plus large deposits of natural gas. This reserve rivals or outstrips the reserves of Saudi Arabia. Russia has expressed great interest in the development of these reserves, so far Israel has refused.

If America were to descend into serious decline, there would be little to prevent the war of Ezekiel 39-39 from taking place. It seems that this war takes

place after world-wide disarmament which is suggested in the peace treaty of Antichrist.

The stage is being set for the war of Ezekiel 38-39.

Another sign of the times is the threat of food shortages. In revelation chapter six we read about famine in the tribulation period. In this chapter we have the account of the four horsemen of the apocalypse.

The first horseman comes upon the scene riding on the white horse which represents Antichrist conquering the world by a peace initiative which involves great deception. This is the precursor of the great disaster that follows in the chapter.

The second horseman comes upon the scene riding on a red horse which speaks of the bloodshed of war. Paul foretold this in 1 Thessalonians 5:3, "For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape." This seems to speak of the war of Ezekiel 38-39 and perhaps involves other wars that will soon follow the false peace of Antichrist.

The third horseman comes upon the scene riding on a black horse which speaks of Famine. Revelation 6:5-6 speaks of a terrible world-wide famine

that will sweep multitudes into the grave. "And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine." Barley is the lowest quality of food, a penny is a day's wage and three measures are not enough to feed a family for a day.

We are being warned of a looming world-wide food crisis in 2013. Global grain reserves hit critically low levels, extreme weather means climate 'is no longer reliable', and rising food prices threaten disaster and unrest. World grain reserves are so dangerously low that severe weather in the United States or other food-exporting countries could trigger a major hunger crisis next year, the United Nations has warned.

The stage seems to be set for the famines of Revelation six. We take no delight in such a report, but like the weatherman, when he sees a dangerous storm approaching, he must sound the warning.

Art Sadlier