

TAKING STOCK – PART I

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“Whenever you see a cloud rising out of the west, immediately you say, ‘A shower is coming’; and so it is. And when you see the south wind blow, you say, ‘There will be hot weather’; and there is. Hypocrites! You can discern the face of the sky and of the earth, but how is it you do not discern this time?” (Luke 12:54-56)

The central purpose of this newsletter is of course, to relate the events of the day to unfolding Bible prophecy. The words of Jesus, John the Apostle, Paul, Daniel, Isaiah, Ezekiel, the other prophets, Moses and the Psalmists were given so that we might recognize the hand of God in the affairs of our universe and be drawn to Him. They are given; - not so much to foretell the future as to confirm His awesome power and control of His creation and reveal something of His nature. Still we are to “discern this time” in which we live. In this series we will provide a ‘Prophetic Template’ by which we can understand the events of the day. We will measure the world situation, see what others are saying and then view things through the prism of Biblical prophecy.

THE MAN CENTERED TEMPLATE – CHAOS

Imagine there’s no Bible! Let’s temporarily set aside Biblical prophecy as if it does not exist. In this world the future is an unknowable mystery. We’ll look at the world in purely human-centered terms. History moves on without purpose. So our world is simply a purposeless mess. We’ll analyze it by identifying critical danger points that could lead to war or world-order challenging crisis. We are on the verge in several areas.

Demand for energy is driving up world tensions. We will soon reach a point where our demand for oil surpasses our supply. China, Russia, Iran, the US, the EU and others are involved in Machiavellian maneuverings aimed at securing future energy supplies, - contending with each other in the Middle East, the former Soviet Republics, the far East. China is preparing to drill for oil off of our own coast. That will be our starting point.¹

- The American economy is Petroleum driven.
- The value of the dollar, - (the world’s current reserve currency), is propped up by the fact that oil trading is done in dollars. That is changing even now.
- Our suppliers are nations that hate us. We get about 13% of our oil from Venezuela. Their President Chavez is a sworn enemy of America. Just ask him!
- Iran hates us. President Ahmadinejad manages to tell the world as much every couple of weeks or so, - when he isn’t threatening to annihilate Israel. Though Iran does not directly supply us with petroleum remember; - oil is fungible. That means a reduction in supply will affect the whole market. They can pretty much shut down shipping through the Persian Gulf, - at least for a time. The economic affect would be devastating.
- A switch of the oil trade from dollars to euros would have the same effect. Iran is attempting to do that even now. Many countries are moving to euros just to protect themselves from the falling dollar.
- President Ahmadinejad of Iran has a messianic view of the future. He believes it is his mission to enable the return of the Mahdi, the Islamic Messiah. The Mahdi is to enter the world during a time of chaos, and lead a conquering army against the infidels, (Christians and Jews).

- Iran is a major supporter of terror. They are the chief sponsors of Hezbollah. That terror organization not only fought Israel tough in Lebanon in the summer of 2006, but has now morphed into an international organization with branches around the world.
- Iran is the prime sponsor of the Shiite Militia's in Iraq.
- Iran claims to have 40,000 suicide bomber volunteers ready to unleash on Israel, the US and the West.²
- Iran's President Ahmadinejad has announced to the world that he wants to annihilate Israel.
- Iran is building a nuclear weapon.
- Iran's President has said that he would be willing to sacrifice millions of his own people in order to realize the Islamic dream of driving the Jews out of the region.
- Iran is getting the support and protection of Russia in pursuing its nuclear ambitions. Iran, (and Syria) have taken delivery of over half of the new state of the art Russian anti-missile system.³
- WE MUST TAKE HIM AT HIS WORD!! Hitler warned us about his plans for the Jews in his book, Mein Kampf. The world didn't take him seriously. – If Iran gets the bomb, they will use it.
- Israel knows that! They have already war-gamed strikes against Iranian nuclear facilities.
- Israel has taken delivery of 500 American made bunker buster bombs to do that job against the buried and hardened Iranian facilities.⁴
- Syria is Iran's toady and ally. They have already moved units up to the Golan Heights on Israel's border. Syria's Assad is cryptically talking war.
- Hezbollah has rearmed and hardened their positions in southern Lebanon.
- The Palestinians are developing a more sophisticated rocket capability. They continue to launch harassing rockets against the Jewish population bordering Gaza.
- All of these nations are Islamic in nature and RELIGIOUSLY COMMITTED to the destruction of Israel, America, the West and the conquering of the entire world for Islam.

This religiously driven hate has led to the indoctrination of entire populations. Imams preach Friday night hate sermons that incite pliant to violent acts in the name of a god that demands blood to fulfill a religious requirement for jihad. The sermons are broadcast throughout the Middle East, including "moderate" countries such as Egypt. It rings too in the mosques of London. For more than a generation now, Palestinian children as young as five or six have been subjected to mind altering propaganda, utilizing commercials, teaching, games, music, cartoons and even terrorist training. Saudi financing has been behind mosque schools in the Middle East and the West, including the US and Great Britain. All of this has created a population that hates the West and is ready to go to war. The Middle East is a powder keg ready to blow. But there is potential for war in many other areas too.

- There are reported to be terror cells in every state of the union. Britain's MI-5 reports that they are tracking over 30 ongoing terror-plots in that country alone.⁵
- There is ample evidence that al-Qaeda related terrorists may already be in possession of suitcase or dirty nuclear weapons inside the US. Intelligence / rumors abound of a coordinated, multi-targeted strike against as many as a dozen American cities.
- North Korea has already exploded a nuclear device.

- The North Koreans have several varieties of missiles capable of delivery of nuclear warheads that threaten South Korea, Japan, much of the Pacific rim and even possibly the west coast of the United States.
- North Korea has a marked superiority in conventional forces over South Korean and American military units on the Korean Peninsula. They have tens of thousands of missiles ready to launch across the border. American war games have predicted that allied forces could be quickly overrun unless supported by tactical nuclear weapons. The use of such weapons would no doubt unleash the North's nuclear arsenal. China or Russia may feel the need protect their spheres of interest.
- Tensions remain high between China and Taiwan. The Chinese are determined to take back the one-time island province that broke off from the mainland after it fell to the Communists.
- China has been busy positioning thousands of missiles across the strait from Taiwan. They've told the world that should Taiwan formally declare its independence, they would invade and take back the island.
- The US has commitments to defend Taiwan from such an attack.
- China has been building its navy up to challenge American power in the region.
- American naval power was reduced during the Clinton years and has never recovered. It has been admitted that the US would not have enough carriers to handle 3-major crisis at the same time: i.e. Iran, North Korea and Taiwan.

Now the Bible has many specific prophecies relating to some of these very critical areas. But we don't even need Biblical prophecy to see the danger we face. There are at least three major crisis areas at which war could erupt any time. Those areas are; The Middle East, (focused on Iran, Iraq & Israel), The Korean Peninsula, and China-Taiwan. Any of these could quickly spread, bringing in more nations and eventually lead to World War.

THE FALSE TEMPLATE

Introducing the faux prophetic templates of the false prophets! There are several variations. Jesus said, "**Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many**". (Mt 24:11) Here are some of those deceptive scenarios.

- **The Eastern Religious Scenario** – We are on the verge of a New Age that will be heralded by the appearance of the Lord Maitreya , - the "Christ consciousness" that will appear to lead mankind to a new level of existence. Lord Maitreya will appear in the near future, coming at a time of chaos and unify mankind religiously and politically. Wars and economic collapse are just part of the necessary birthing process for this New Christ, the One World Government and One World Religion.
- **The Islamic Scenario** – The Mahdi is coming. Again, he will arise at a time of global chaos, - first to unite the Muslim world and then to unite the world with the sword. He will lead victorious armies that will conquer Jerusalem, rule the entire globe; - hunting down and killing Jews and Christians. The present world situation is preparation for his imminent return.
- **The New Age Scenario** – New Age author Peter Lemesurier laid out the scenario for us in his 1981 best-seller, The Armageddon Script. He tells us that the New Age Christ will be humanly produced, - using the fake fulfillment of Messianic prophecies to convince the Jewish authorities of his authenticity. According to the revealed plan of the New World Order types, this New Messiah will rebuild the Jewish

Temple and fulfill Daniel's prophecy by remaining and ruling from Israel for 7 years. Below is the detailed plan presented to bring this False Christ to power. It was revealed in 1981!

- 1) A major war between Israel and the Arab States. Israel wins an annihilating victory.
- 2) Arab terrorists attack the US and Europe using weapons of mass destruction.
- 3) A nuclear crisis in Korea. "A hair raising nuclear confrontation in Korea may, towards the end of the period, threaten man's very survival".
- 4) China uses the fact that the US is occupied on two fronts already to invade and conquer Taiwan.
- 5) Major UFO / Alien contact shakes the very foundational beliefs of the peoples of the world.
- 6) Panic sets in, crashing the stock markets and destroying the global economy.
- 7) Earthquakes around the world.
- 8) The New Age Christ appears. He comes offering peace and solutions. He presents himself as the Jewish Messiah, Jesus, the Mahdi and Buddha all rolled into one. He displays 'supernatural' power.⁶

Next week we'll look at Biblical prophecy; - God's interpretation of unfolding events.

TAKING STOCK – PART II

“Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors! Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.” (Matthew 24:32-35)

*Last week we looked at the world situation as if Biblical prophecy did not exist. Today we will begin to explore the ramifications of those prophecies by examining the outline of coming events that they provide. Now some will scoff here, believing that no ancient book can predict the future. At this time I offer just two lines of thought in its defense. First there is the unblemished record of Biblical prophecy already fulfilled. Take for instance the over one-hundred prophecies concerning Christ's first coming. Grant Jeffrey writing in *Jesus: The Great Debate*, figured the probability of anyone fulfilling just 17 of those prophecies at one chance in 480 billion x 1 billion x 1 trillion.⁷ Second, since Einstein, scientists will tell you that space and time were created – at a point in time, as it were. So there was a time, (ahem), when space and time did not exist. Therefore *The First Cause of our universe, God, - must exist, - as the Bible claims, - outside of the constraints of time and space (else there would be a time when God did not exist).*⁸ Therefore, to God, - all time is viewed as present. Therefore prophecy is just God's revelation of His eternal present! Got it? With all that in mind, let's begin to explore God's Prophetic Template.*

THE PROPHETIC TEMPLATE (1)

In evaluating the days in which we live I've found it helpful to divide God's word into three categories; - Prophecies Fulfilled, Prophecies in Process and Signs of the Age. We'll look first at those passages in Scripture that have been substantially fulfilled already.

Prophecy Fulfilled

- **The Jews Re-Gathered** – This is the foremost and signal prophecy given for the beginning of the End of the Age. Isaiah 11:11-12 reads: **“In that day the Lord will reach out his hand a second time to reclaim the remnant that is left of his people...he will assemble the scattered peoples of Judah from the four quarters of the earth”**. The first time God called His people back was after the Babylonian captivity, so that Israel could receive her Messiah at his first coming. This second re-gathering signals the near end of history; - so that Israel will be in the Land to receive the Messiah who is to return in Glory and power. The Jewish return began with the Zionist movement of the late 19th century. It was hurried along by Hitler’s attempt to destroy the race during WWII and it continues to this day. The Jews survived as a nation for over 1,800 years without a homeland, - just as God promised. In Leviticus 26:33 God had warned Israel that He would **“scatter you among the nations”**. Through Isaiah He promised them that He would again call them to the Land. **“I will bring your descendants from the east, And gather you from the west; I will say to the north, ‘Give them up!’ And to the south, ‘Do not keep them back!’”** (Isaiah 43:5-6) And through Ezekiel he confirmed the permanence of the call. **“I will gather them from all around and bring them back into their own land.... They and their children and their children's children will live there forever”** (Ezekiel 37:21, 25) Following: Some specific sub-prophecies.
 - 1) **A Language Restored** – Hebrew was a language as dead as ancient Chaldean. Yet God had promised to restore it. **“For then I will restore to the peoples a pure language, That they all may call on the name of the LORD”** (Zephaniah 3:9) He gave one determined scholar the vision of restoring the language for Temple worship. Today it is a vibrant spoken tongue.
 - 2) **A Land Again Fertile** – For 18 centuries, - after the Romans got through with it, - Israel was a desert wasteland. In one example, Isaiah 27:6 promised **“Israel shall blossom and bud, And fill the face of the world with fruit.”** Tiny Israel now supplies Europe with 90% of its citrus fruits.
 - 3) **Increased Rainfall** - In Joel 2:23 God promised that He would cause **“the rain to come down for you”**. Rainfall has increased by 10% a decade since the Jews began returning to the land in the 1890s.
 - 4) **Return of the Ethiopian Jews** – Zephaniah 3:10 promised: **“From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia My worshipers, The daughter of My dispersed ones, Shall bring My offering”**. Beginning in the 1980’s Israel organized airlifts to bring the Ethiopian Jews to Israel.
- **Israel Reborn In A Day** – Israel’s reestablishment as a nation on May 14, 1948 shook up the world, and reoriented much of the Church’s view of prophecy. It was literal indeed! And it was all about Israel. Isaiah 66:8 predicted that miraculous birth. **“Shall the earth be made to give birth in one day? Or shall a nation be born at once?”**
- **Israel’s First War** – Psalm 83:2-8 lays out Israel’s first war when they became a nation again in 1948. It even specifically names their modern enemies, - Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Syria, etc, - using their ancient historical names.
- **Jerusalem Is Jewish Again** – When the IDF took Jerusalem during the ’67 War, it was a fulfillment of Christ’s own words. In Luke 21, Christ warned of the impending destruction of Jerusalem by Roman armies which occurred in AD 70. The early Christians took His warning to heart and left the city as the

Roman legions were gathering. Despite the fact that about 1.1million Jews were slaughtered during the capture of Jerusalem, - not one Christian is recorded to have lost their lives in the siege.⁹ Jesus went on to describe the ensuing scattering of the Jews throughout the world and that Jerusalem would remain in the hands of Israel's enemies **“trampled by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled”**. (Luke 21:24) Then Jesus goes on to tie that end of the Gentile Era to accelerating birth pangs that will signal the End of the Age. **“Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. When they are already budding, you see and know for yourselves that summer is now near. So you also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near.”** (Luke 21:29-31) Now a little speculation here! Psalm 90:10 gives 70 years as the length of a generation. And we are told in Luke 21:32, **“this generation will by no means pass away till all things take place”**. In this year of 2007 we find ourselves 40 years into the window of this generation that saw the recapture of Jerusalem.¹⁰

The rebirth of the Jewish State is often referred to by prophecy scholars as the ‘Super Sign’ that signals that Christ's return is near at hand. God has called His people back into the Land, - just as He said, - and established them there as a nation, - just as He said. Further He promised in Amos 9:15: **“I will plant Israel in their own land, never again to be uprooted from the land I have given them,” says the LORD your God**”. As God has fulfilled His promises to restore Israel, so the Enemy is preparing the world for his ultimate rebellion. It will all be played out during the Tribulation. That's the next area we will look at in our Prophetic Template.

TAKING STOCK – PART III

“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the *spirit* of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.” (1John 4:1-3)

In the last segment we discussed the very specific prophecies, - signaling the coming of the End of the Age, - that have already been fulfilled. Next we will look at the trends in culture and church and corporate behavior that are preparing the way for the coming of the Antichrist. His spirit precedes him.

THE PROPHETIC TEMPLATE (2)

Just as God has ordained certain specific events to prepare the way for the return of His Son; - Satan too is working to prepare the world for the emergence of his chosen one, the **“man of sin”**. (2Thessalonians 2:3) To this end, he is infiltrating the church, altering the culture and corrupting the hearts of men.

Antichrist Conditioning

- **A Godless Age** – 2Timothy 3:1-5,7 describes our age perfectly in the words **“in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure**

rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power....always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth". These words strike home. We've become a culture that is in complete revolt. Let's look more closely at the passage above.

"Lovers of themselves", - we've morphed into a society bent on satisfying our every whim. **"Lovers of money"**, - there is even a prosperity gospel that turns Christianity into a get-rich-quick scheme. Go down the list and tell me that this does not define our society today. We are completely taken with fulfilling our own selfish desires. **"Lovers of pleasure"**, indeed! We have raised pleasing ourselves above pleasing God. Abortion has become the 'Sacrament of Convenience'. Even life itself will not deter us from pursuing our own self-worship, - and in the case of embryonic stem cells, our pursuit of ersatz immortality. Now there is something called YouTube, a place where anyone can post their own self-promoting videos to achieve their 15 minutes of fame. Some High School girls from Long Island recently arranged a video to be recorded, showing them beating a younger girl to a pulp; - all to draw attention to themselves. Commenting on the incident, Dr Laura Schlesinger said, "Doesn't matter if its vulgar, sexual or violent. Its all about getting attention."¹¹ Violence, greed, voyeurism and self-absorption reign.

To measure how far we have fallen we need only survey some of the behaviors once dubbed illegal or immoral that are now an accepted part of the culture. The use of mind altering drugs, premarital sex, having babies out of wedlock, homosexual unions are all winked at, approved or reinforced by society. Cohabiting outside of marriage has become not only tolerated but normal. Because we have all become the arbiters of our own truth, - there is no right or wrong, - and all things are accepted.

We no longer **"Strive to enter through the narrow gate"**, but rather seek to justify our sins; - if we recognize the concept of sin at all. (Lk 13:24) Even within the professing church Biblical doctrines are denied and sin is tolerated. Much of the church as well as the culture at large has abandoned the notion of absolute truth in the name of tolerance. The hyper-tolerant post-modernist thinking will tell you that all ways lead to God. We do no favor to the lost by ignoring the reality of sin and evil and the need for salvation. In this warped way of thinking all things are relative. Thus it becomes impossible to **"...come to the knowledge of the truth"**.

- **A Time of Increasing Knowledge** – The Bible says that this time of increasing knowledge is indeed a sign that we are nearing Christ's return. Knowledge in fact is estimated to double every 2 years.¹² Here's how Daniel 12:4 puts it. **"But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase."**
- **A Time of Rampant Immorality** – Matthew 24:12 tells us **"because lawlessness will abound the love of many will grow cold"**. In Luke 17:26 Jesus had said, **"And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man"**. One of the characteristics of the **"days of Noah"** was that it was a time of unbridled sexual lust and immorality. Sodomy was openly practiced and culturally approved. We see today the onset of Gay Marriage, openly homosexual clergy and the advent of advocates for even sex with children as evidenced by NAMBLA, The North American Man-Boy Love

Association. The porn industry is a multi-billion dollar business and standards of decency have plummeted in the media.

- **A Great & Gradual Apostasy** – 1 Timothy 4:1-3 reads: **“Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth”**. This passage describes the gradual falling away that has afflicted the Church since about the middle of the 18th century, with the onset in European circles of something called ‘Higher Criticism’. As this methodology of Bible interpretation gained steam, it called into question the long accepted and historically sound, foundational doctrines of Christianity. This is especially prevalent among ministers of some of the mainline Protestant denominations. Recent surveys have shown that a minority of Christian ministers in these bodies believes in the very foundational truths of Christianity as presented by the Scriptures. Segments of the Church are ignoring and sidestepping clear Biblical teaching on the divinity of Jesus, the virgin birth, the reality of the Resurrection, the existence of a hell, and the nature of sin. The Catholic Church has imposed its own man generated doctrines on its adherents, - even where they clearly contradict the dictates of Scripture.

Then there are the segments of the population that have bought into the myths advanced by Dan Brown and the DaVinci Code crowd absolutely denying Christ’s divinity and thereby denying the saving power and true purpose of Jesus’ ministry. Others have adopted a ‘Cafeteria Christianity’, that combines Buddhist beliefs, or yoga or goddess worship, or whatever with some selected Christian beliefs and passages. After all, only sincerity matters! But Christ’s teachings are clear here. **“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me”**. (John 14:6)

- **A Great & Sudden Apostasy** – While the Church has been slip-sliding away from the truth of the Gospel, 2 Thessalonians 2 suggests something else altogether: An event generated, sudden rebellion or apostasy by those who had previously held to at least nominal Christianity. Here’s the passage. **“Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed*”** (2Thessalonians 2:3)

Hal Lindsey addressed this passage in his 1983 book, *The Rapture*. Scripture does teach that there will indeed be a progressive apostasy in the last days, yet the language of *these* verses demands a “climactic event when the professing church will completely revolt”.¹³ Chuck Missler chimes in pointing out that the Greek suggests a “sudden forsaking” of Biblical Truth.¹⁴ So what could possibly cause this?

Let’s look at the context. The passage above tells us that the Day of the Lord can’t come until 1) This great and sudden falling away comes, & 2) The Antichrist is revealed. Some light is shed on this just a little farther down in the chapter. **“He who now restrains *will do so until He is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed*”** (2Thessalonians 2:7-8) To many Bible scholars, the **“He who now restrains”**, is the Holy Spirit as expressed in the Church. All believers have, by definition,

The Holy Spirit living inside them. So taking Him **“out of the way”** would seem to be referring to the rapture of the believing Church. It is then that the **“lawless one”** will be able to assume power. But how does he come to power? Verses 9&10 give the answer. **“The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.”**

Now how this event will manifest itself we cannot know for certain. Without being able to fully develop this let me speculate on its nature by bringing out just these few facts.

1. The late Pope John-Paul II fully expected an End Times vision of Mary to appear before the whole world, preceded by a universal sound, light or smell, - producing an “engulfing chaos” that will lead to mass conversion to the Catholic faith.¹⁵
2. David Bay of Cutting Edge Ministries describes a New Age seminar at which the speaker, Bill Lambert said: “Minutes before the Antichrist arises, some supernatural sound will be heard and spiritually felt by everybody on the planet, simultaneously...with everyone’s attention aroused, images of Antichrist will appear simultaneously over the entire earth, speaking to each in his own language. The signs and wonders will have begun.”¹⁶ This is consistent with other New Age plans.
3. Peter Lemesurier’s Armageddon Script reveals that part of the plan to bring the New Age Christ / Antichrist to power involves Extraterrestrials manifesting a presence that leads to the collapse of the religious belief’s of many around the globe.¹⁷
4. Jesus put it this way: **“For false christs and false prophets will rise and show signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect”**. (Mark 13:22)

So it seems an amazing deception accomplished **“with all power, signs, and lying wonders”** will precipitate a great and sudden falling away from the faith. Such a reaction would not be unexpected should ‘aliens’, (actual, artificial or demonic), one day land, demonstrating their power and freedom from the laws of physics, and present the world with a new religious paradigm. The faith of many would certainly fail. The accelerating explosion of UFO sightings, (real or contrived) certainly point to this as possibility. (Already 60% of Americans believe there is life on other planets.)¹⁸ Then there is the hybrid race of Nephilim written of in Genesis 6, - a cross between the fallen angels and the daughters of men, - and displaying many of the characteristics assigned to aliens. But that’s a story we’ll have to develop later. In any case, such contact would surely shake the faith of millions not fully grounded in God’s word.

This is the preparation for the entrée of the Antichrist. The End of the Age is being prepared even today. In the last part of our Prophetic Template we will look at world events that are fulfilling Emerging Prophecy in our day.

TAKING STOCK - PART IV

“Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.” (Matthew 24:34-34)

We began by examining the times we live in from Man’s point of view; breaking it down into the humanistic, the New Age view, the Islamic and New World Order perspectives. Then we began to look at God’s plan for mankind as revealed in Biblical prophecy. Today we finish our survey by studying those End Times prophecies that are in the process of being fulfilled. Hold on to your seat!

THE PROPHETIC TEMPLATE (3)

Where we are in God’s time now is right at the cusp of the End of the Age, The Tribulation, Jacob’s Trouble. We must always keep in mind that when we are dealing with End Times issues we must be cognizant of God’s plan for Israel. There is a seven year period beginning when the Antichrist **“confirms a covenant”** with Israel. (Daniel 9:27) It ends with Christ’s return in glory to judge the world. The Tribulation is a time of judgment and wrath that will put an end to Mankind’s age-long rebellion. End Times writer Thomas Ice identifies its 3 main purposes.

- To Provide Judgment on Sin & Wickedness – This is the judgment on the sins of the unbelieving Gentiles. Isaiah 13:9 reads: **“Behold, the day of the LORD comes, Cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger, To lay the land desolate; And He will destroy its sinners from it.”** Just as the Flood, the Tribulation will serve as punishment for the sins of all Mankind.
- Worldwide Evangelistic Outreach – It will be a time of extremes. Yes, there will be extreme persecution of believers unto death. At the same time many will be saved. The Book of Revelation tells us that God will provide 2 Witnesses with supernatural power, 144,000 protected Jewish evangelists and an Angelic preaching of the Gospel. Matthew 24:14 tells us: **“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come”**.
- The Salvation of Israel – This will see the completion of a process that began with the regathering of the Jews from all the nations of the world and continued with the reestablishment of the Jewish State in 1948 and the recapture of Jerusalem in 1967. During the 7-year Tribulation this process will be completed as Israel is put through a purifying and winnowing process. Zechariah 13:8-9 says: **“...two-thirds in it shall be cut off and die, But one-third shall be left in it: I will bring the one-third through the fire, Will refine them as silver is refined, ...I will say, ‘This is My people’**”. And then Paul’s prophecy in Romans 11:26 shall be fulfilled: **“And so all of Israel will be saved”**.¹⁹

All that said; we know that we are not in the Tribulation. However, events do cast their shadows forward. Right now, every prophetic area is laying the groundwork for its near-term fulfillment.

Emerging Prophecy

“So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near – at the door... But of that day and hour no one knows... Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming” (Mat 24:33, 36, 42)

With the purposes of the coming Tribulation in mind, let’s look at just how events are shaking out.

- **The Rise of a Revived Roman Empire** - Daniel gives a detailed description of the history of the world, from the ancient times, through Alexander the Great and the demise of his realm, to the emergence of Rome, its division into eastern and western halves and its predicted reemergence as the dominant world power. Prophecy tells us that the Antichrist will arise from a revived Rome. This new Rome will have ten centers of power. Many prophecy experts believe these could refer to the original 10 nations of the European Union, which began to come into being when the Club of Rome signed the Treaty of Rome. There are ten nations that hold the real power, called the Western European Union. Those ten will maintain complete control of the organizations military forces.

Revelation 17:9-10 describes that renewed empire. **“The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits. There are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come. And when he comes, he must continue a short time.”** Some scholars have seen in the **“seven mountains”** a direct reference to the seven hills of Rome. What it more clearly describes is the succession of world empires; - Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece and finally ancient and a revived Rome, - the only power that was not conquered and absorbed.²⁰ With its recent addition of nations, the borders of the the EU will mirror those of the old Roman Empire. Current President Merkel of Germany is pressing hard for ratification of a constitution. The EU’s European Neighborhood Plan is a 7-year set to go into effect this year that will tie that organization to both Israel and the Arab States.²¹ (Israel even now is flirting with joining NATO²² and discussing a European role in the creation of a Palestinian State.) [The ten power centers could also refer to international groupings a la NAFTA & the EU.]

- **Jerusalem: The World's Burden** – The prophet Zechariah tells us that concern with the status of Jerusalem will become a burden to the surrounding nations and the whole world in the last days. **“Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples... And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples...”** (Zechariah 13:2-3) Jerusalem is fast becoming that burden. The US, the EU, the surrounding Arab states and the UN are all working right now to achieve a Palestinian State and the status of Jerusalem, (at least the eastern half), is very much on the table. Secretary Rice is working on a ‘final status agreement’ cooperating with Israel to make something happen on her watch.
- **The Coming 7-Year Treaty** – Look for an agreement to be negotiated with Israel that will ‘guarantee’ her security. That’s the treaty that will signal the start of the Tribulation. Hamas has dangled the possibility of a 10-year cease-fire. Daniel says that treaty will last 7 years and will be confirmed by the Antichrist himself.
- **Preparations For Messiah: Temple & Sanhedrin** – Groups of Orthodox Jews like the Temple Mount Faithful have prepared to rebuild the Temple on short notice. They need only access to the site now occupied by the al-Aqsa Mosque. Many of the other preparations with regard to renewing the sacrificial system are already in place. The first Red Heifer in 2,000 years was produced in 1997 to fulfill numbers 19. Jews from the priestly tribe of Levi have been identified and computerized and readied to take their ceremonial place. Temple instruments have been gathered. A species of snail

needed to produce a required ceremonial blue die returned to Israel for the first time since the Roman occupation. A flask of anointing oil, necessary for blessing the new Temple, was located after nearly 2,000 years, - discovered in a cave near the Dead Sea.

The Sanhedrin, an Israeli religious court set up oversee the rebuilding of the Temple was re-constituted in October of 2004, for the first time in over 1,500 years. (This was the court that condemned Jesus.) The new Sanhedrin is considering whether the real site of the ancient Temple was a few hundred yards from where the Dome of the Rock is now. This would mean the rebuilding could start anytime. Watch for the agreement for a Palestinian State to include provisions for the rebuilding of the Temple. It will very likely be the Sanhedrin that is called upon to certify the one who comes posing as the Messiah, - the Antichrist.

- **The Forming Russo or Turkey – Persian – Islamic Alliance** – The Scriptures describe an alliance between Russia, several of the Islamic former Soviet republics, Persia and some of the Arab states that will come against Israel in the Last Days. It specifically mentions “**Magog...Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal...Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya...Gomer and...the house of Togarmah**”. (Ezekiel 38:2-6) These are but ancient names for the likes of Russia or Turkey, Iran, Turkey and many of the former Islamic Soviet Republics. Russia and Iran (Persia) have buddied up quite a bit with Moscow helping with military and nuclear technology and Russian ‘advisors’ already in country. Russia is actively engaged in protecting the Bushier nuclear reactor site with state of the art missiles their military intelligence is operating in Lebanon’s Sidon as surrogate spies for the Iranians (and Syrians).²³
- **Mark of the Beast Technology** - Revelation 13 tells of a time when no one will be able to buy or sell without “**a mark on his right hand or on his forehead**”. Until recently, Bible scholars could never quite get a handle on what that meant. Now the technology, - and the nascent plans for such a scheme are in place. The VeriChip, (introduced last year), or similar technology has made this possible. Volunteers have already had scan-able chips placed under the skin of their right hands. The technology would act as GPS-connected, human bar codes, - able to track location as well as store and manipulate medical and financial information.
- **Enter The Kings of the East** - Revelation 16 tells us that in the last days an army of 200 million will march on Israel led by the “Kings of the East”. Both China and Korea have been steadily building their military capabilities. Beijing has massed thousands of missiles across the strait from US ally Taiwan, is in the process of rebuilding and modernizing their navy, and recently shot down one of their own aging weather satellites, thereby displaying their mastery of the technology transferred to them by the Clinton Administration. They have a massive population and due to the infanticide of baby girls, a large majority of military-age males.

- **The Coming One World Religion** - Revelation 17 describes a false religious system that will arise during the Tribulation led by a false prophet that will encourage the world to worship the Antichrist. Described as a woman, she is rich, clothed in purple and scarlet, (the colors of the Vatican), and seated on 7 hills. Rome is the City of Seven Hills. Many believe the reference to be to a post-rapture Catholic Church. The Catholic Church under the last and current Pope's, is leading the charge to unite not just all Christianity but eventually all religions under its banner. There is a surprising door of unity opening between Catholics and Muslims based on the worship of Mary. Islam presents a candidate for the Antichrist in its soon-returning Mahdi. According to Islamic scriptures, the Mahdi's career will closely mirror that of the Christian Man-of-Sin.
- **Earthquakes / Birth Pangs** - Earthquakes have increased steadily and dramatically every decade since the Jews began to return to the land in the 1890's, when there was one major earthquake in the world. After the birth of Israel in 1948 the increase became more marked. In the 60's there were 13. The 1970's saw 56 major quakes. By the 1990's it was well over 100. Major seismic events are now a common occurrence, with many concentrating on the Pacific Rim.
- **Famines & Pestilence** – In Luke 21, Jesus warns of “famines and pestilences” in that day. I need only mention sub-Saharan Africa, AIDS, Avian Flu, Ebola and the resurfacing of diseases once ‘conquered’.

Conclusion

These prophecies and more are all occurring in our generation. The odds against just 10 of them happening in our day has been calculated at 97.5-trillion to one. And their very fulfillment is crying out Christ's message to the world. 'I am real! I Am! My Word is Truth!' Now is the time to give up our self-centered, intellectual pride. It is a call to turn from sin; - change our lives. Come to Him! Experience forgiveness, joy and the fullness of life. He is the only way! Here is the promise of Acts 16:31, **“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved”**.

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- ¹ Just as I was preparing this newsletter, Pastor Fletcher Brothers of Freedom Village gave an analysis of the Middle East situation with regard to Iran / Israel / the US that encapsulated much of this material. His presentation given on WDCX Radio 99.5 on January 5, 2007 helped provide an outline for a significant portion of the material presented here. – all of which has been presented before, (and specifically footnoted), in previous issues of this newsletter.
- ² Iran suicide bombers..., London Times, April 16, 2006
- ³ Russia Nearly Completes SAM Deliveries to Iran / Syria, Middle East News Line, January 4, 2006
- ⁴ Israel Challenges Iran's Nuclear Ambitions, Telegraph, September 22, 2004
- ⁵ MI-5 tracking '30 UK terror plots', BBC, November 10, 2006
- ⁶ Peter Lemesurier, *The Armageddon Script*, 1981, pg 222-224
- ⁷ Grant R Jeffrey, *Jesus: The Great Debate*, pg 229-239, 1999
- ⁸ Missler & Eastman, *Alien Encounters*, pg 138, 1997
- ⁹ Chuck Missler, Prophecy Conference 2006, Q&A Session
- ¹⁰ For the material on this subject, I consulted Jack Kelly's Seven Major Signs of the Second Coming, December 30. Mr Kelly argues that the window for prophetic fulfillment is obtained by adding 70 years to either the 1948 or 1967 dates. He therefore sees the earliest possible fulfillment of all End Times prophecies as 2018. That would mean the Rapture could come no earlier than 2011. In my humble reasoning, - fulfillment could occur any time during the life span of that generation. That would preserve the doctrine of imminence as applied to the Rapture of the Church.
- ¹¹ Dr Laura Schlesinger speaking during an interview on the Larry King Show, CNN, January 17, 2007
- ¹² Quoted from Ohio State University commencement speech given March 21, 2003
- ¹³ Hal Lindsey, *The Rapture*, 1983, pgs 148-149
- ¹⁴ Chuck Missler & Mark Eastman, *Alien Encounters*, Koinia House, 1997, pg 267
- ¹⁵ This idea was revealed and developed by Malachi Martin, the former Vatican Jesuit, in his book, *The Keys to This Blood*,
- ¹⁶ David Bay, Cutting Edge Ministries
- ¹⁷ Peter Lemeurier, *The Armageddon Script*, 1981 pg 223 & following,
- ¹⁸ Do Americans Actually Believe, PR Newswire, May 26, 2006
- ¹⁹ The scholarship for this entire section is taken from Thomas Ice, *God's Purpose For The Tribulation*. His argument ultimately originated with Arnold Fruchtenbaum, *Footsteps of the Messiah*: 1982, pp. 122- 23
- ²⁰ Jack Kelly, Seven Major Prophetic Signs of the Second Coming, December 30, 2006
- ²¹ Ibid.
- ²² Jerry Golden, *The Golden Report*, January 31, 2007
- ²³ Jack Kelly, Seven Major Prophetic Signs of the Second Coming, December 30, 2006