

The End Times

2. The Last Days

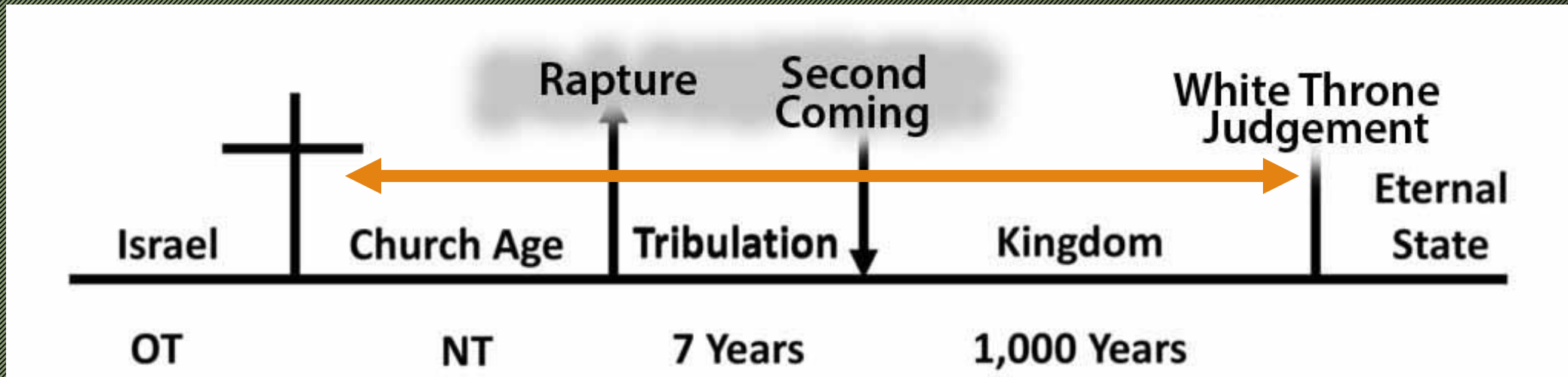
© David Beling 2021

What are the Last Days?

- The final period of time announced by prophets
- A time of revival and a time of decline
- A time which culminates in both salvation for the righteous and judgment for the unrighteous

The Last Days

- The Last days extend from the time of Jesus' ascension, to the Millennial Kingdom
- The character of the Last Days is shown in the scriptures



A Period of time

- **Acts 17:30-31**

In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed.

- He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead.



From Pentecost ...

- **Acts 2:17**
'In the **last days**," God says, "I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams."
- Peter quotes the prophecy of Joel 2:28
- Fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost



A time of degeneration

- **2 Timothy 3:1-5**

But mark this: There will be terrible times in the **last days**. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God-- having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.

- **In our present**

Ungodliness

- **2 Peter 3:3**

First of all, you must understand that in the **last days** scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires.

- **Jude 1:18**

They said to you, "In the **last times** there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires."

- **In our present**

The Jewish temple is rebuilt

- **Isaiah 2:2**

In the **last days** the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and all nations will stream to it.

- The Third Temple in Jerusalem will draw people from all nations to it
- **In our future**



- The Last days extend from the time of Jesus' ascension, to the Millennial Kingdom
- Within it are
 - The Church and its worldwide witness
 - The Rapture of the Church
 - The Rise of satanic power
 - The Second Coming of Christ
 - The Judgments on the satanic kingdom
 - The establishment of the Millennial Kingdom

The signs that Jesus gave

- Three Key passages
 - Matthew 24
 - Mark 13
 - Luke 21



The signs that Jesus gave

- Answering specific questions

- **Matthew 24:1-3**

Jesus left the temple and was walking away when his disciples came up to him to call his attention to its buildings. "Do you see all these things?" he asked. "I tell you the truth, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down."

- As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. "Tell us," they said, "when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?"



The signs that Jesus gave

- The sign of the Jewish temple
 - The Magnificent Temple had been built by Herod for 46 years up to the time of Jesus.
 - Jesus Predicted that it would be destroyed - not one stone left on another.
 - This was fulfilled 38 years later, in AD 70, when the Romans quelled a Zealot uprising in Jerusalem.



The signs that Jesus gave

- The signs leading to his Second Coming and the end of the age.
- Jesus warned about trying to set dates
 - **Matthew 24:36**
"No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father."

The signs that Jesus gave

- **Luke 12:54-56**

He said to the crowd: "When you see a cloud rising in the west, immediately you say, 'It's going to rain,' and it does. And when the south wind blows, you say, 'It's going to be hot,' and it is. Hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the sky. How is it that you don't know how to interpret this present time?"

- Jesus did not give dates but he gave a number of signs which would indicate how close we are.



The sign of Noah

- **Matthew 24:37-39**
- As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.



The Sign of the Nation Israel

- **Matthew 24:32-34**

- "Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see **all these things**, you know that it is near, right at the door. I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened.

- **What is the GENERATION Jesus spoke of?**



The Sign of Jerusalem

- **Luke 21:20-24**

- "When you see Jerusalem being surrounded by armies, you will know that its desolation is near. Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those in the city get out, and let those in the country not enter the city. For this is the time of punishment in fulfillment of all that has been written. How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! There will be great distress in the land and wrath against this people. They will fall by the sword and will be taken as prisoners to all the nations.
- Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

The Sign of Jerusalem

- **Near view:**
 - AD 70-Agonising siege by the Romans, hundreds of crucifixions - to quell Zealot uprising;
 - AD 135 - Bar Koch bar uprising in which Jerusalem was ravaged, and Jews dispersed.
- **Far view:**
 - A later crisis in Jerusalem (in our future)
 - Ezekiel 38, 39?



Celestial and Atmospheric signs

- **Matthew 24**
- "Immediately after the distress of those days 'the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.'



Celestial and Atmospheric signs

- Sun darkened and moon does not give light:
 - Eclipse of the sun
- Stars will fall
 - Meteors? Shooting stars
- Heavenly bodies shaken
 - Could happen with explosions in the sun



Geological Signs

- **Matthew 24:11**
- “There will be great earthquakes, famines and pestilences in various places, and fearful events and great signs from heaven.
- **Luke 21:8**
- “... There will be earthquakes in various places, and famines. These are the beginning of birth pains.



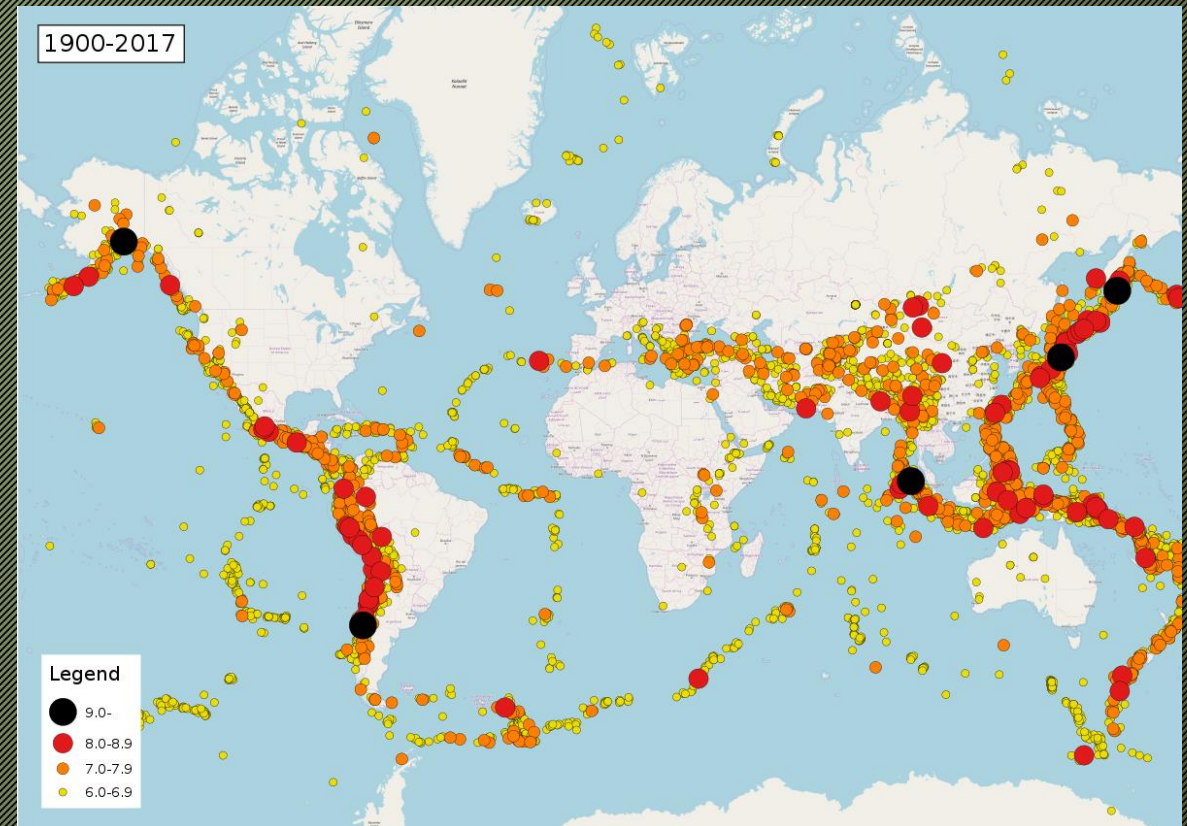
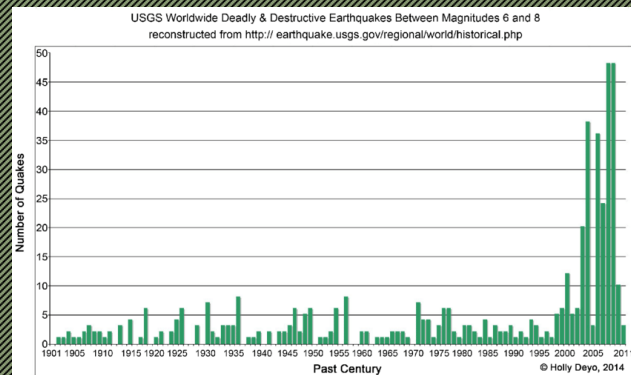
Geological Signs

- Gigantic earthquakes and resulting tsunamis have wreaked havoc
 - 1952 - Kamchataka (over 9.0)
 - 1960 - Chile (over 9.0)
 - 1964 - Alaska (over 9.0)
 - 1995 - Kobe 5,000 died
 - 1999 - Turkey 17,500 died
 - 2001 - Gujarat 19,700 died
 - 2004 - Andamans 286,000 died
 - 2008 - China 70,000 died, 18,000 missing
 - 2010 - Haiti 222,570 died



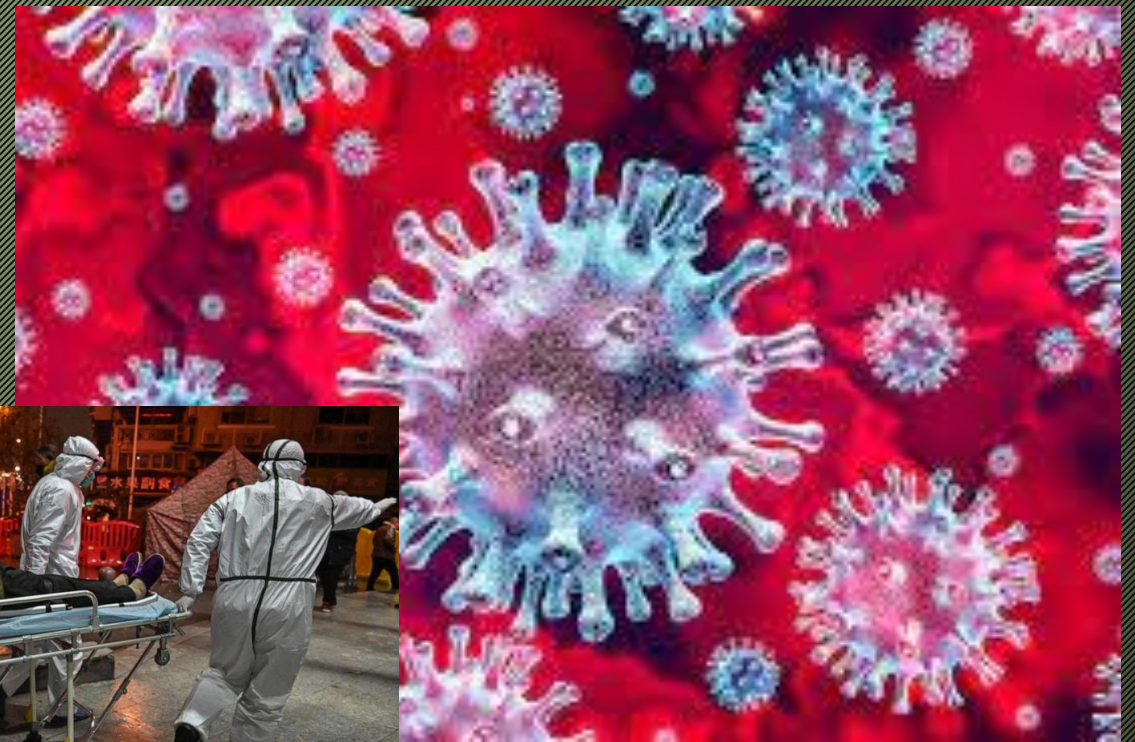
Geological Signs

- The frequency of severe earthquakes is also increasing
 - 1977 there were 46
 - 1987 there were 55
 - 1971 there were 71
 - 2000 to 2010 there were 880



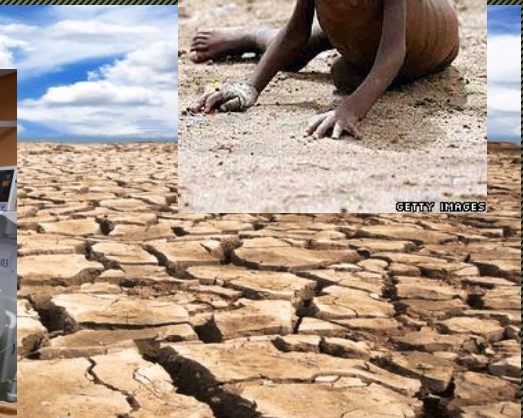
Biological Signs

- **Matthew 24:11**
- There will be great earthquakes, famines and pestilences in various places, and fearful events and great signs from heaven.
- Also **Luke 21:11**



Biological Signs

- Famines
 - Mosambique - 430,000 threatened
 - Ethiopia - looming nightmare worse than in 1984
 - A child somewhere in the world dies of starvation every five seconds
- Pestilences
 - Epidemics and now pandemics
 - AIDS, Cancer, SARS, Bird Flu, Swine Flu, Ebola Virus, Covid-19



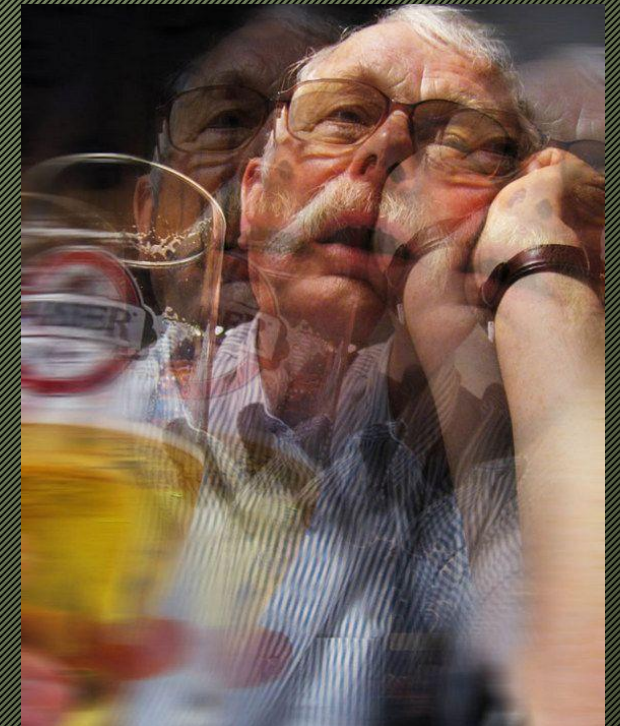
Social Signs

- **Matthew 24:9, 34-36**
- "Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me."



Social Signs

- **Matthew 24:9, 34-36**
- "Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap. For it will come upon all those who live on the face of the whole earth. Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man."



Social Signs

- Persecution of Christians is a worldwide phenomenon
 - Sharia Law in Muslim countries
 - Taliban now on the rise again
 - Repressive Communist countries
 - Religious fundamentalism
 - India and Sri Lanka



Religious Signs

- **Mark 13:21-22**

At that time if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or, 'Look, there he is!' do not believe it. For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform signs and miracles to deceive the elect - if that were possible.

- **Matthew 24:12**

Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold,



Religious signs

- Apostasy is now invading the countries that sent us missionaries
- Traditional churches are being emptied. Spiritism, demonism, materialism, and a preoccupation with exotic religion are resulting in closed churches



Political Signs

- **Mark 13:7, 8**
- When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. Such things must happen, **but the end is still to come.**
Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.
..... **These are the beginning of birth pains.**



Political Signs

- World War I was called 'a war to end all wars', but it did not prevent World War II - six years of the most destructive war in history
- Today we have wars between nations and within nations
 - Korea, Ireland, Vietnam, Indonesia, Kuwait, Iraq, Afghanistan, Kashmir ...
 - Hutus and Tutsis in Rwanda left half a million dead; Sri Lankan conflict has left over 70 thousand dead.

Evangelistic Sign

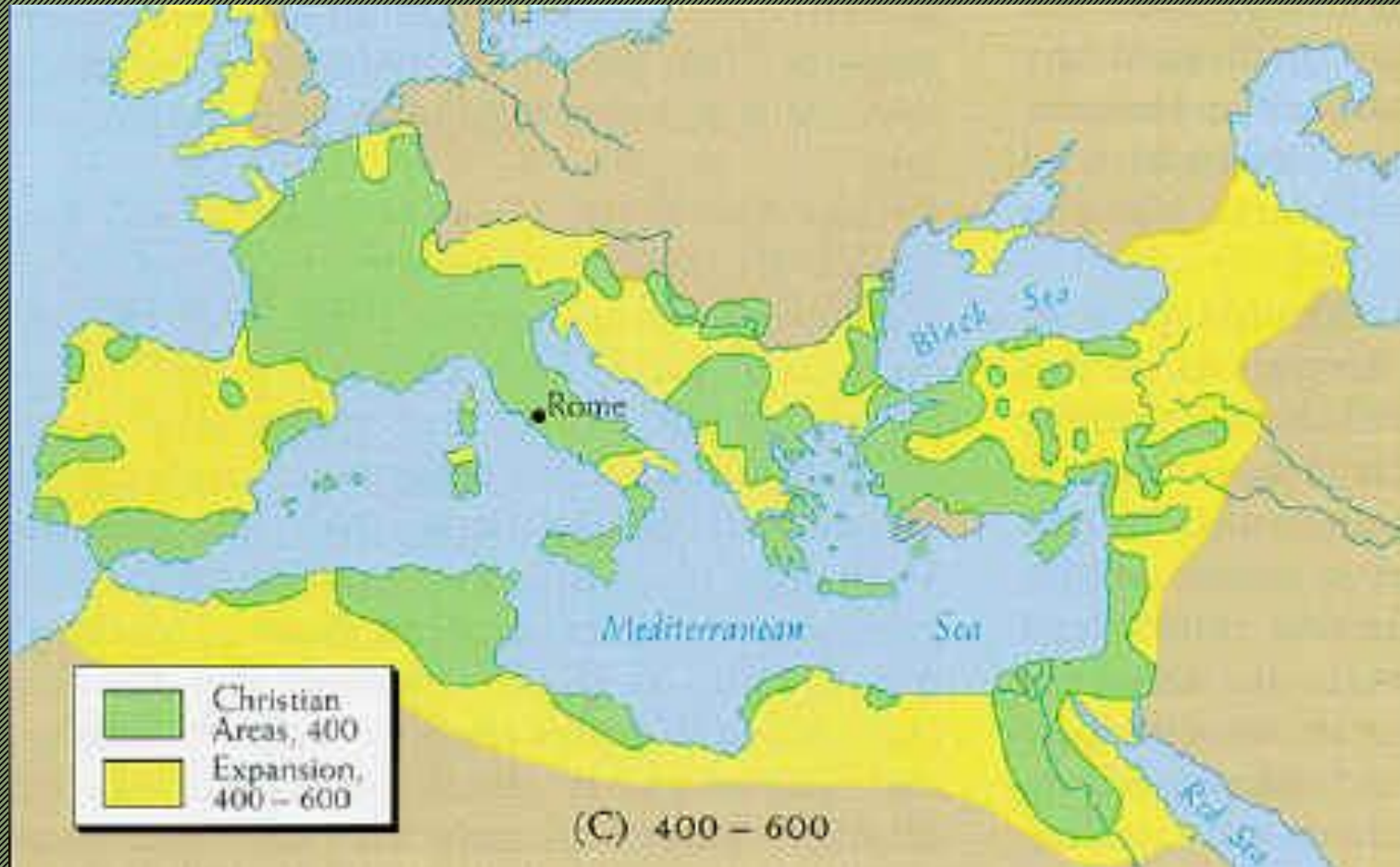
- **Matthew 24:14**
- And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.



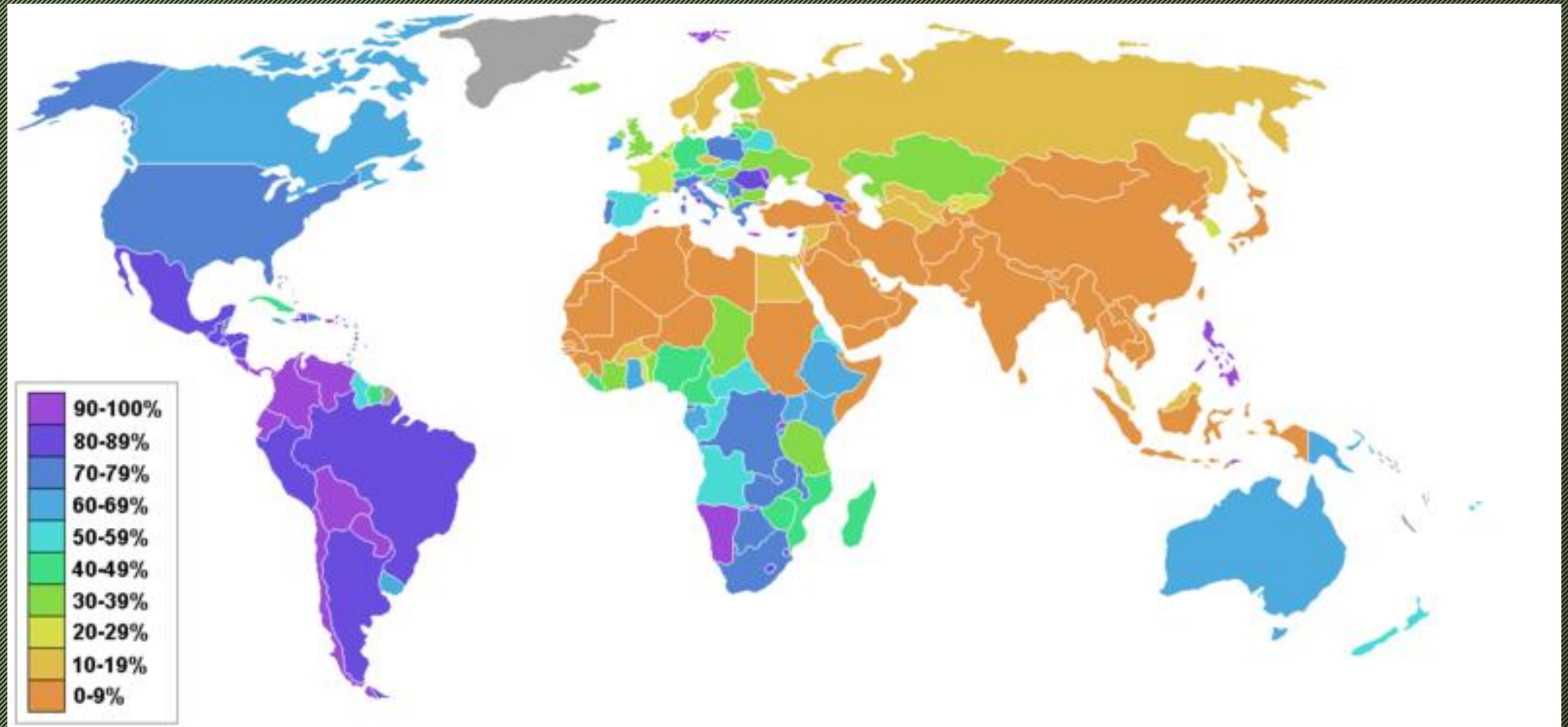
Evangelistic Sign

- The Bible is now in over 2000 languages
- Missionaries have taken the gospel to remotest corners of the earth
- Evangelism has resulted in one third of the 6-billion people of the earth professing Christianity
- The gospel is proclaimed over the airwaves to billions





600 years after Christ.....
The spread of Christianity in the Mediterranean region
Green 400 AD and Yellow 600 AD



21 Centuries after Christ...

A map of the world showing distribution of Christians on national basis

Violet represents 90-100% and orange 0-9%

Sign of Antichrist

- **Matthew 24:15, 21-22**

- "So when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination that causes desolation,' spoken of through the prophet Daniel - let the reader understand - For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now - and never to be equaled again.

If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened.



Sign of Antichrist

- Jesus says that the man of Sin, spoken of in Daniel 9:27 will be revealed.
- He will claim to be Christ, and demand worship.
- He will gain popular support and produce a formula for peace.

The need for a peacemaker

- **NEWS QUOTES:**
- *'The Temple Mount, or al-Haram al-Sharif to Muslims, must rank as one of the most sensitive religious sites in the world. The sporadic riots of the past month at the site are therefore particularly alarming, as such incidents have the potential to ignite much wider unrest.'* (11/2009)



The need for a peacemaker

- **NEWS QUOTES:**

- *‘According to Sheikh Taysir Tamimi, the chief judge of the Palestinian Authority, present Israeli provocations in Jerusalem are aimed primarily at partitioning Al-Aqsa esplanade.’*



The need for a peacemaker

- **NEWS QUOTES:**

- *'The Temple Mount compound has remained a focal point for Jewish services over the millennia. Prayers for a return to Jerusalem have been uttered by Jews since the Second Temple was destroyed, according to Jewish tradition. Jews worldwide pray facing toward the Western Wall, a portion of an outer courtyard of the Temple left intact.'*



The need for a peacemaker

- **NEWS QUOTES:**

- *'The Al Aqsa Mosque was constructed around A.D. 709 to serve as a shrine near another shrine, the Dome of the Rock, which was built by an Islamic caliph. Al Aqsa was meant to mark where Muslims came to believe Muhammad, the founder of Islam, ascended to heaven.'*



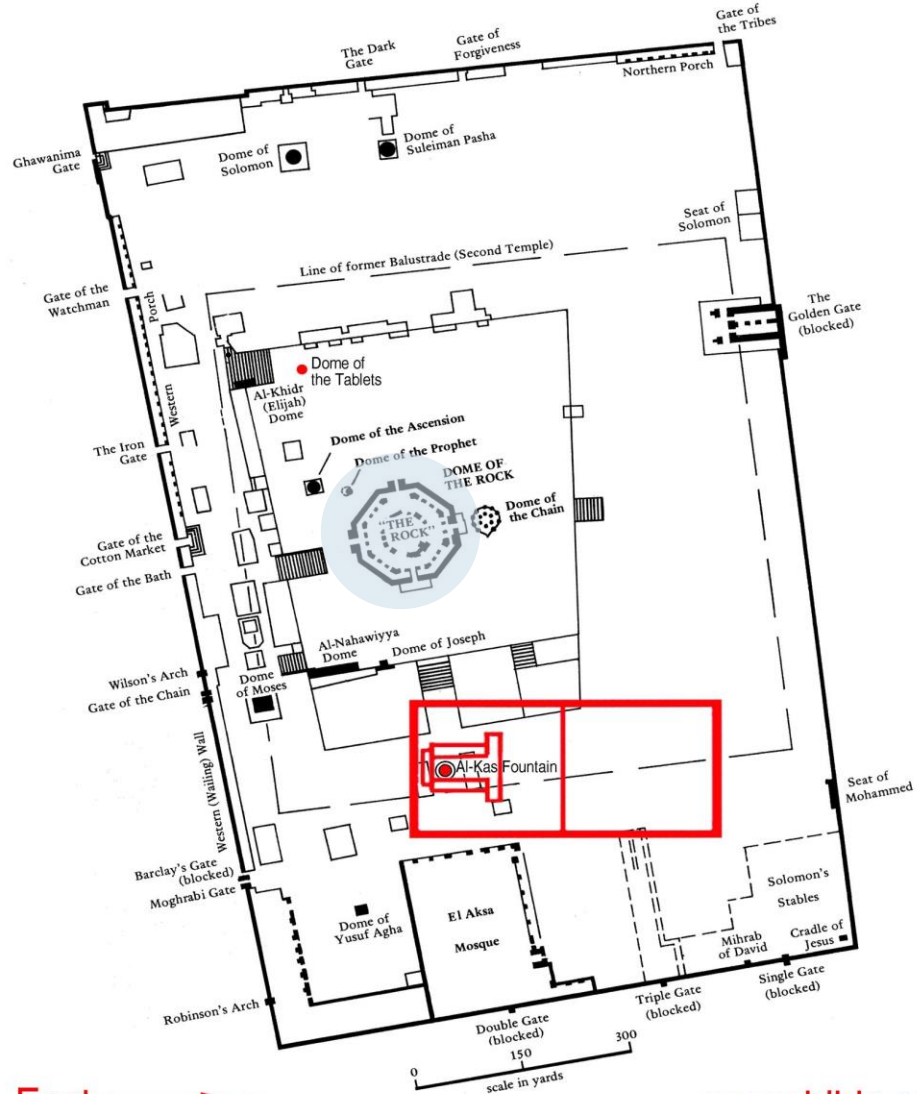
The need for a peacemaker

- **NEWS QUOTES:**

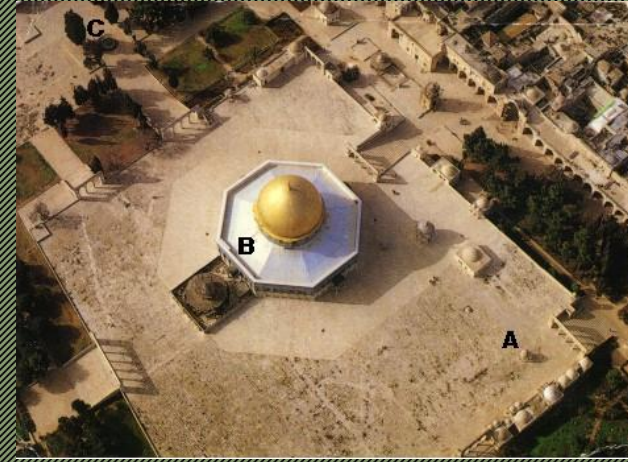
- *'Sheikh Raed Salah, the head of the Islamic Movement's northern branch, said "I think that we are at a critical time. We believe that al-Aqsa is in danger and that it is under occupation, and we believe that Jerusalem is in danger because it is under occupation," Salah said. "Jerusalem is not only houses - it is faith, it is history, it is a culture, it is a present, a future and an eternal right that we will not relinquish.'* (May 2008)



Herodian Temple: Holy of Holies over Threshing Floor (Tuvia Sagiv's view, 2004)

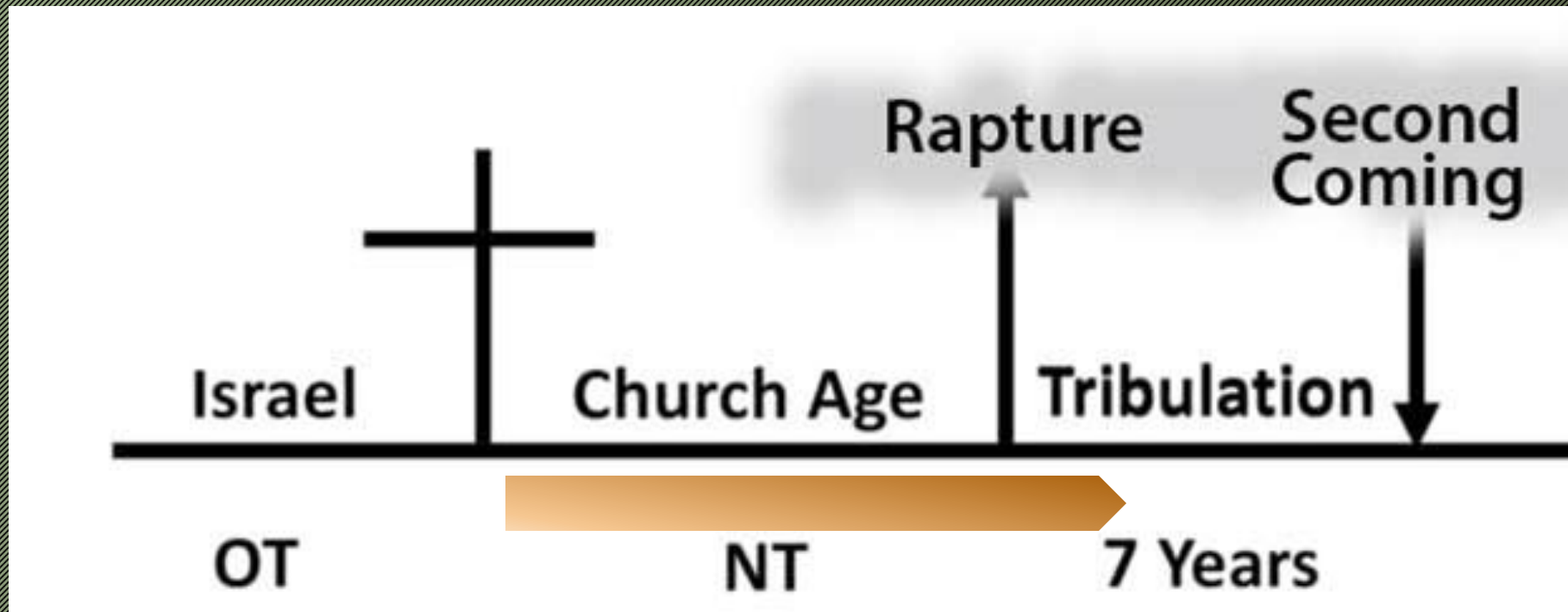


www.bible.ca



Will Antichrist provide the answer?

The temple mount has for the past 1300 years a mosque on it, but there is room for a temple to be constructed *beside* it. In the map on the left the position of the Herodian Temple destroyed in AD 70 is shown in red.



The 'Birth Pains' of the tribulation

Be ready and watching

- The signs Jesus gave which were relevant to His coming again have all been fulfilled
- The stage is now being set for the arrival of the Antichrist
- Jesus wants us to be ready for and expecting His coming
- He has not given dates, but the signs point to His return at any time now.