

# Prophecy Update Where Are We Now? Matthew 24: 3-8

# Scripture quotations are taken from the following translations:

ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations taken from the New American Standard Bible® (NASB), Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995, 2020 by The Lockman Foundation Used by permission. www.Lockman.org

Scripture quoted by permission. Quotations designated (NET) are from the NET Bible® copyright ©1996, 2019 by Biblical Studies Press, L.L.C. <a href="http://netbible.com">http://netbible.com</a> All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked (NLT) are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

The Good News Translation Bible (GNB) text used in this product is being used by permission. Copyright © American Bible Society, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1992

Scripture taken from the Holy Bible: International Standard Version® Release 2.0. (ISV) Copyright © 1996–2011 by the ISV Foundation. Used by permission of Davidson Press, LLC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED INTERNATIONALLY

Scripture quotations contained herein are from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition Bible (NRSVue), Copyright © 2021, National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide

Scripture taken from the New King James Version (NKJV). Copyright 1979, 1980, 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc.

Scripture taken from The Holy Bible: The Contemporary English Version (CEV). ©1995 by The American Bible Society, Thomas Nelson, Nashville TN.

Scripture quotations marked (CSB) have been taken from the Christian Standard Bible®, Copyright © 2017 by Holman Bible Publishers. Used by permission. Christian Standard Bible® and CSB® are federally registered trademarks of Holman Bible Publishers.

Whew! We made it. It's the last week of 2023 and time to look back and assess just what is going on around the world.

I don't know about you, but I find myself looking up and anticipating Jesus coming back a whole lot more these days. "But when these things begin to happen, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."" (Luke 21:28, NET 2nd ed.)

On the wars and rumors front, a warmup for us.



The United States is a heartbeat away from a world war that it could lose. There are serious conflicts requiring U.S. attention in two of the world's three most strategically important regions. Should China decide to launch an attack on Taiwan, the situation could quickly escalate into a global war on three fronts, directly or indirectly involving the United States. The hour is late, and while there are options for improving the U.S. position, they all require serious effort and inevitable trade-offs. It's time to move with real urgency to mobilize the United States, its defenses, and its allies for what could become the world crisis of our time. (Mitchell 2023)

And in terms of the MEGA sign of the near return of Jesus Christ, Israel. "Because Israel is a nation again, there now exists a stage on which the end times can be played out. This is why Israel is called the supersign of end-times Bible prophecy." (Miller 2022, 16)

Everything ties into Israel being back in the land.

Ezekiel 37 is being fulfilled.

May 14, 1948, changed everything.

So, what are some of the things we need to be looking for? Is it going to get weirder than it is right now? The answer to second question...yes. But from the Lord's perspective, everything is falling into place exactly as he wants it to.

Jesus briefed His disciples on many things the last day of His ministry here on earth.

His return was one of those thus, a briefing to His disciples in Matthew 24 highlights some of the things to look for. We have an up on the disciples, we have a promised helper to show us.

#### John 16:13

"But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come." (NASB 2020)

The Holy Spirit is the one we must rely on to teach us as we dig into prophecy and look at what is going on globally.

When considering signs of the times, we must make sure that we view current events in light of the Bible and not the other way around. (Hitchcock 2012, 106)

From Dr. Ryrie.

"...the Lord gave a promise to the disciples and to us concerning the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit in this dispensation. He promised that the Spirit would "announce to you the things that are to come" (John 16:13, Williams). "Things that are to come" seems to be a specific area of truth within the broader promise that the Spirit "will guide you into all the truth." In other words, special attention to prophecy is promised. Some understand those coming things not to refer to end-time events but to the revelation concerning the Christian church period (which was future when Christ spoke). Even if that interpretation is correct, "things that are to come" cannot exclude the events at the end of the church period, so the phrase still involves prophetic truths including the rapture. The Lord, then, expects us to understand prophecy, including the prophecy of the rapture of the church." (Ryrie 1981, 20-21)

Here at Calvary, we study prophecy because we need to know.

Jesus wants us to know.



# Amos 3:7

"Certainly the Sovereign LORD does nothing without first revealing his plan to his servants the prophets." (NET 2nd ed.)

### John 15:15

"I no longer call you slaves, because the slave does not understand what his master is doing. But I have called you friends, because I have revealed to you everything I heard from my Father." (NET 2nd ed.)

Jesus wants us to be ready.

So, the briefing.



### **Golden Gate**

(Bolen 2012)

# Matthew 24:3-8

"And as He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" And Jesus answered and said to them, "See to it that no one misleads you. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and they will mislead many people. And you will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for those things must take place, but that is not yet the end. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pains." (NASB 2020)

Recapping the list that He gives us here. By the way, we are only looking at some of the signs.

- Deception will be the new normal.
- A proliferation of false religion and false teaching.
- War and rumors of war.
- Don't freakout over the wars since they must take place.
- Nation (ethnos) versus nation.
- Kingdom (basileia) versus kingdom.
- Famines.
- Earthquakes everywhere.



Though we cannot know the actual day and hour of our Lord's return, He urges us to be alert. The reason Jesus described the signs that will precede His return is that He wanted people to know when the end is drawing near. (Miller 2022, 12)

Before we get too deep into this. I want to clarify a couple of terms.

First, the rapture of the church. This is an event which has no sign or warning attached to it. It is imminent. It can happen at any second.

Even Paul, as he wrote about it, believed it would take place in his lifetime.

### 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18

"But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words." (NKJV)

Imminency is built into the rapture passages as there are no signs, miracles, wonders, i.e. any specific event that must precede the rapture. The "any moment" rapture of the church will happen in the twinkling of an eye. The entire body of Christ (roughly 2,000 years) will meet the Lord Jesus Christ in the air as He is in His glorified state, and this is the blessed hope. (Olander 2009, 11-12)

Jesus is the one who made the announcement about His returning for His own. This was a brand-new doctrine which He introduced to the disciples just prior to going to the cross (John 14:1-2).

We believe that Jesus Christ, prior to the beginning of the Day of the Lord, in other words, prior to the Tribulation, is returning to remove His church, just as He has promised.

That brings us to our second term, Day of the Lord.

"The phrase, the day of the Lord, has reference to the direct intervention of God in the affairs of man. The theme has a twofold meaning. First, the phrase, day of the Lord, refers to God's judgment which came upon Judah after Joel penned the prophecy. Second, it has reference to the Tribulation period which will culminate in Christ's coming in glory and the establishment of His Millennial Kingdom." (Levy 1987) David M. Levy, Joel, the Day of the Lord: A Chronology of Israel's Prophetic History, 1st ed. (Bellmawr, NJ: Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry, 1987).

By the way, the book of Joel is all about the Day of the Lord.

What do we mean when we say the Day of the Lord? First of all, it is not a single day. The Day of the Lord is a technical expression in Scripture which is fraught with meaning.

It includes the millennial kingdom which will come at the second coming of Christ, the book of Joel makes it very clear to us that it begins with the Great Tribulation Period, the time of great trouble. If you want to set a boundary or parenthesis at the end of the Day of the Lord, it would be the end of the Millennium when the Lord Jesus puts down all unrighteousness and establishes His eternal kingdom here upon the earth.



We must take note of this teaching from the scriptures, "it is critical to understand that the day of the Lord cannot possibly begin until the church has been removed from the earth. Paul consistently taught the rapture of the church must take place first, and only then can the day of the Lord begin." (D. E. Olander 2008, 271)

But we are talking about those signs leading the the return of Christ, which takes place at the end of the Tribulation. There are no precursor events for the rapture. The events of the Tribulation are already casting shadows on what we see and do as we approach the new year.

Call these, preliminary trends, shadows being cast from the future.

By the way, all of those things that Jesus spoke about, have taken place with relative frequency over the past 2000 years. But since the end of the 19th century, they have started to become more numerous.

And now, in the 21st century, they are all converging and happening everywhere, all at once. It is this convergence of various events that show us we need to "Be alert."

Jesus reminded the church at Sardis of this need to be alert. That church is a picture, in the scriptures, of the church of the reformation.

#### Revelation 3:2-3

"Wake up then, and strengthen what remains that was about to die, because I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God. Therefore, remember what you received and heard, and obey it, and repent. If you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will never know at what hour I will come against you." (NET 2nd ed.)

Again, what time is it. There are those wanting to rebuild the Temple.

Jesus Himself made it clear that a rebuilt temple will stand on the Temple Mount during the tribulation and that the antichrist will desecrate it. (Miller 2022, 245)

Why the Hamas attack and why now?

Is this all part of prophecy? Yes, yes it is.

In a statement about Saturday's attack, Hamas directly referenced Jewish prayer at the site, calling it an act of "aggression" that "had reached a peak." Hamas specifically mentioned the blowing of shofars at the complex, as well as the sprinkling of a red cow's blood — which Jewish texts state is a precursor to the construction of the Third Temple — as proof of their belief Israel plans to destroy the mosque and the entire compound, justifying the attack. (Fox 2023)

Yes, they have a red heifer, actually they have 5 which have met the standard. "Rabbi Yitzchak Mamo, from yet another Third Temple group, Uvne Jerusalem, told the Christian Broadcasting Network that he has planned a ceremony for Passover 2024 to slaughter the imported heifers, assuming they have not developed any blemishes before then. Mamo said he bought a plot of land overlooking the Temple Mount 12 years ago, specifically in hopes of using it for the slaughter ceremony and beginning preparations for the Third Temple's construction." (Fox, Holy cow! Can one heifer herald the Third Temple - and the end of the world as we know it? September)

And considerations are being considered politically.



One possibility was found in an academic book on the politics of the Temple Mount: "Given the emphasis upon the international community's interest in the sites, under the concept of heritage of humankind, representatives from the international community need to be included as mediators and guarantors. These would likely come from the United Nations (UNESCO) and drawn from regional powers such as the Arab League, NATO, or interested states such as the U.S., the E.U., and Russia...Any proposed legal regime will require interfaith cooperation composed of religious leaders from the region. It may be supplemented by international religious leaders who may serve as mediators." Those who seek to understand biblical prophecy know that the Antichrist will be followed by both political and religious leaders, making this kind of proposal a reality. (Price 2022)

Where are we on the clock?

Matthew 25:13

"Therefore stay alert because you do not know the day or the hour." (NET 2nd ed.)

Deception today is rampant. With only 4% of all adults in the United States having a Biblical worldview, it is easy to be misled into believing what the Bible teaches, is other than the language of the text.

Unfortunately, it isn't getting better.

The 2023 American Worldview Inventory is revealing.

The results of the American Worldview Inventory are frightening for biblical Christians, according to George Barna, the creator of the American Worldview Inventory and director of the research for the Cultural Research Center at Arizona Christian University. We are seeing disaffection take place at a rate never seen before.

"When you put the data in perspective, the biblical worldview is shuffling toward the edge of the cliff," Barna said. "As things stand today, biblical theism is much closer to extinction in America than it is to influencing the soul of the nation. The current incidence of adults with the biblical worldview is the lowest since I began measuring it in the early 1990s."

The veteran researcher cautioned, "Young people, in particular, are largely isolated from biblical thought in our society and are the most aggressive at rejecting biblical principles in our culture." (Barna 2023)

There is a problem with Biblical literacy in our culture. "The resultant spiritual illiteracy virtually resigns them to a superficial worldview in which they grasp at ideas and practices that provide immediate comfort rather than lasting truth and peace. The moral chaos that characterizes the generation can likewise be traced to a dearth of coherent and pragmatic religious instruction abetted by the absence of mature moral reflection. The consequence is a generational moral code driven by comfort and convenience rather than truth and righteousness—and accepted because truth and righteousness are not regarded as necessary precedents, or even attainable realities." (Barna, Helping Millennials Thrive, Practical Wisdom for a Generation in Crisis 2023, 96)

When truth is rejected in favor of myth, and those who are doing the rejecting are responsible for teaching others, then not only are those teaching deceived, but those they teach are equally deceived. For example, what about the basic teaching of heaven and hell.

"Amazingly, substantial proportions of people associated with Christianity embrace the possibility of reincarnation. For instance, one out of four (24%) theologically identified born-again Christians accept reincarnation as a possibility. Don't overlook just how mind-blowing that statistic is: people who acknowledge their sins, and ask God through Christ to forgive them, nevertheless say they may come



back as some other life form rather than reside eternally in God's presence! In addition, more than one-third of all self-identified Christians (36%) also believe that reincarnation is a real possibility for them." (Barna, American Worldview Inventory 2021-2022, The Annual Report on the State of Worldview in the United States 2022, 93)

How about false teaching and false religions?

## 2 Timothy 4:1-4

"I solemnly urge you in the presence of God and Christ Jesus, who will someday judge the living and the dead when he comes to set up his Kingdom: Preach the word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching. For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear. They will reject the truth and chase after myths." (NLT)

There is deception, which leads to false teaching. But the teacher may be the one deceived, and now you have a big problem. As a teacher of the word, all of us who do this, are under responsibility from the Lord to teach the Bible accurately.

#### James 3:1

"Dear brothers and sisters, not many of you should become teachers in the church, for we who teach will be judged more strictly." (NLT)

Here at Calvary, we teach the Bible chapter by chapter, verse by verse so that you know the real. This way, when you hear the false, you exercise Acts 17:11 and search the scriptures to see if what you have just heard, is true.

Christianity is being eviscerated from within and without. From the outside, atheists, secularists, and humanists unload a relentless barrage against the faith. And on the inside, theological liberals and all sorts of false teachers diminish and even deny essential Christian doctrine and morality. (Hitchcock and Kinley, The Coming Apostasy: Exposing the Sabotage of Christianity from within 2017, 23)

I have been asked questions about several false teachings in the past year. Some of these involved teachers who used the Bible, but the context of the verses use was ignored, and eisegesis was applied to them. In other words, the teacher read into the scripture what they wanted it to say. We do exegesis, what does the scripture tell us and what is the context? Big difference.

Spiritual deceivers...They proclaim statements that appear to be true but aren't. Their falsehoods are shrouded with just enough truth that they go undetected and end up deceiving people. Error is cloaked in truth and leads people to believe something is true when it isn't. (Miller 2022, 163)

Discernment and the Word are paramount.

## 2 Corinthians 11:13–15

"These people are false apostles. They are deceitful workers who disguise themselves as apostles of Christ. But I am not surprised! Even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So it is no wonder that his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. In the end they will get the punishment their wicked deeds deserve." (NLT)

There are several popular false teachings making the rounds today. I am only going to mention a few because this is not study on false teachings. For example, there is positive confession. This reduces God to being nothing more than a genie waiting for the magic words to be uttered before He does anything.



It all begins with twisting what Jesus said and meant in John 14.

# John 14:12-17

"I tell you the solemn truth, the person who believes in me will perform the miraculous deeds that I am doing, and will perform greater deeds than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it. If you love me, you will obey my commandments. Then I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot accept, because it does not see him or know him. But you know him, because he resides with you and will be in you." (NET 2nd ed.)

This does lead to another false teaching, the "health and wealth" gospel.

"The "health and wealth" gospel teaches that the human mind and tongue contain a "power." When a person speaks expressing his faith in supposedly divine laws, his positive thoughts and his positive verbal expression (such as, "I am healed of my heart attack") are supposed to produce a "divine force" that will heal, produce wealth, and influence the environment. According to the "health and wealth" teachers, God automatically responds and accomplishes what we command when we positively confess our needs and desires. The non-biblical part of this teaching is that God is obligated to do what we decide." He isn't. (Ankerberg and Weldon 2011, 26)

Then there is "progressive Christianity," which isn't Christianity at all.

If someone says they have a "new" revelation or word from God, trust me, they don't.

There has also been Gnosticism rebranded as the Beresheet Prophecy.

Then there is Hebrew roots movement, and on and on.

Deception knowns no bounds. How do we combat this?

The tragedy of our situation today is that men and women are being fundamentally affected by the new way of looking at truth, and yet they have never even analyzed the drift which has taken place. Young people from Christian homes are brought up in the old framework of truth. Then they are subjected to the modern framework. In time they become confused because they do not understand the alternatives with which they are being presented. Confusion becomes bewilderment, and before long they are overwhelmed. This is unhappily true not only of young people, but of many pastors, Christian educators, evangelists and missionaries as well. (Schaeffer 1982, 5-6)

Spiritual maturity is required.

### Ephesians 4:14-16

"so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love." (ESV)

False Christs? The list just keeps on getting longer and longer. Wikipedia maintains lists of those who say they are. Then there are those who also claim they are Messiah. That too is a growing list. The people in Israel are looking for their Messiah and some rabbis say they have talked to him.



Rabbi Yaakov Zisholtz told religious broadcaster Radio 2000 that Rabbi Chaim Kanievsky (who passed away earlier this year) had told him that he (Kanievsky) was already in direct contact with the Messiah. (Jones 2022)

Then there is what was seen in New York recently.

The question existed from this as to whether the late Rabbi was being called a Messiah or he attested to being one.

Ever since the destruction of the Holy Temple, in every generation there is an individual, a scion of the House of David, who has the potential to be the Moshiach. If at any moment the Jews are worthy of redemption, this person would be directed from Above to assume the role of the redeemer. (Chabad.org 2021)

Moving on.

#### Wars and Rumors of Wars

There was serious concern simply over what is going on in Ukraine expanding globally. Once again, Russia is involved in a war, just like Afghanistan, that resets the overall global agenda.

China has been rumbling about Taiwan.

Then there is North Korea.

## Al-Aqsa Flood

But at least it wasn't in the Middle East. That all changed on October 7 this past year. Hamas determined it was in their best interests to attack the apple of God's eye, Israel. Not only to attack, but to do so in a manner that should have inflamed the conscience of every nation in the world. The Geneva Convention of War was thrown out the door. Yet as Israel responded and continues to do so, the world attention has been drawn to Jerusalem.

For some reason, Israel has been determined by most of the world to be the bad guy in this. This shadow is from what is coming as the armies of the world gather against Israel under the direction of the Beast.

The UN has yet to even condemn the attack.

There are also now real questions, based on the IDF activity, as to whether UNRWA facilitated Hamas.

A group of at least 20 staffers and teachers affiliated with the U.N. Rights and Work Agency (UNRWA), a Palestinian aid organization, celebrated the Hamas slaughter of Israeli civilians following its surprise invasion, a new report from UN Watch found. (Blaff 2023)

In 2022, UNRWA was funded by hundreds of millions of dollars of state donations, including \$344 million from the United States, \$202 million from Germany, \$114 million from the European Union, \$61 million from Sweden, \$34 million from Norway, \$29 million from France, \$25 million from Switzerland, \$24 million from Canada, \$21 million from the UK, and \$21 million from the Netherlands. (Rovner 2023)

### Zechariah 12:2-3

"I am about to make Jerusalem a cup that brings dizziness to all the surrounding nations; indeed, Judah will also be included when Jerusalem is besieged. Moreover, on that day I will make Jerusalem a heavy



burden for all the nations, and all who try to carry it will be seriously injured; yet all the peoples of the earth will be assembled against it." (NET 2nd ed.)

The Bible not only speaks about this.

The growing attitude, worldwide, of embracing antisemitism is something the Bible speaks to. The Bible also has a bit to say about what is going on in Gaza as well as Lebanon.

### Amos 1:6-8

"This is what the LORD says: "The people of Gaza have sinned again and again, and I will not let them go unpunished! They sent whole villages into exile, selling them as slaves to Edom. So I will send down fire on the walls of Gaza, and all its fortresses will be destroyed. I will slaughter the people of Ashdod and destroy the king of Ashkelon. Then I will turn to attack Ekron, and the few Philistines still left will be killed," says the Sovereign LORD." (NLT)

# Ronald Reagan (1971)

"For the first time ever, everything is in place for the battle of Armageddon and the second coming of Christ." (Schorr 1988)

The book of Obadiah is judgement on Edom, the descendants of Esau. Many of whom now continue to live in the land but are referred to as Palestinians or Jordanians since Edom as a nation ceased to exist. There is an interesting verse in Obadiah.

### Obadiah 10

"Because of violence to your brother Jacob, Shame will cover you, And you will be eliminated forever." (NASB 2020)

The word translated violence, is the word, hamas. We know Hamas as a violent terrorist organization that committed atrocities this past week in alignment with who they follow, Satan. Hamas is an acronym for Ḥarakat al-Muqāwamah al-Islāmiyyah, which in English translates to "Islamic Resistance Movement." (Got Questions Ministries 2014-2021)

Interesting how the acronym wound up being the Hebrew word for violence. Now certain scriptures, such as Obadiah 10, make you stop and go hmm.

The book of Obadiah gives us prophetic details that we are now seeing being fulfilled in Israel.

### Obadiah 15-20

""The day is near when I, the LORD, will judge all godless nations! As you have done to Israel, so it will be done to you. All your evil deeds will fall back on your own heads. Just as you swallowed up my people on my holy mountain, so you and the surrounding nations will swallow the punishment I pour out on you. Yes, all you nations will drink and stagger and disappear from history. But Jerusalem will become a refuge for those who escape; it will be a holy place. And the people of Israel will come back to reclaim their inheritance. The people of Israel will be a raging fire, and Edom a field of dry stubble. The descendants of Joseph will be a flame roaring across the field, devouring everything. There will be no survivors in Edom. I, the LORD, have spoken! Then my people living in the Negev will occupy the mountains of Edom. Those living in the foothills of Judah will possess the Philistine plains and take over the fields of Ephraim and Samaria. And the people of Benjamin will occupy the land of Gilead. The exiles of Israel will return to their land and occupy the Phoenician coast as far north as Zarephath. The captives from Jerusalem exiled in the north will return home and resettle the towns of the Negev." (NLT)



Verses 17-18 say that there will be a time when Israel returns to their land. The remnant of the house of Esau would be still living in the land; today we would refer to them as Palestinians.

A remnant of Judah will be restored on Mount Zion. Israel regained full control of Jerusalem in 1967 so this is in the process of being fulfilled. Once Messiah returns, it will indeed be holy, but currently, on Mount Zion, are those who escaped. The land is once again possessed by Israel. Some of the remnant who had been previously threatened by Edom, now are back in the land.

At some point in the future, those who remain from what was once Edom, will be eliminated. Edom physically was in what is today, southern Jordan. Another area of concern for Israel today due to the large numbers of so-called Palestinians who live there.

As a result of the divine judgment, Yahweh will empower his remnant to repossess the former territories once held by David and Solomon. Expansion will be effected in all directions, fulfilling the promises made to Jacob in his ladder dream at Bethel (Gen 28:14). (Busenitz 2003, 278)

Those areas will, prior to the beginning of the Day of the Lord, once again become part of Israel. At some point in the near future, Israel will finish the incorporation of the west bank into the nation. They will also deal with the Gaza Strip and that is what we are seeing unfold right now.

And since we see that Gilead is in the area we see today as northwest Jordan. The south of Jordan, in other words Jordan, is to also become part of the nation too.

Unlike previous times, it appears this time, Israel will not be leaving. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on December 26, "For the foreseeable future Israel will have to retain overriding security responsibility over Gaza." (Jewsih News Syndicate 2023)

### Then there is Lebanon

Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen recently led a delegation of foreign ambassadors on a tour of the northern border, emphasizing the urgent need for international action. "Nasrallah needs to know he is next in line," the foreign minister declared, signaling a critical turning point in Israel's approach to the ongoing threat posed by the terrorist organization Hezbollah north of the Litani River. (i24News 2023)

What we are seeing here is a yet future event or events. This could be the results of different actions or the same one. Right now, we do not know what the outcome of the current war will be. But it will impact middle eastern geopolitics dramatically. "Israel's remnant would become a mighty army that would humiliate its former oppressors. The destruction of Edom and other enemy nations would enable the dispossessed Israelites to regain their lands. Some form of the root word "to possess" (yarash) appears five times in verses 17–21. Obadiah's prophecy echoes the earlier oracle of Balaam that Edom would become an Israelite "possession" (yereshah) (Num 24:18)." (Fuhr and Yates 2016, 156)

This has not stopped the nations of the world to begin to align against Israel.

But as you talk about an increase in and threat of war, you also have to talk about the issue of famine and hunger. Usually caused by the action or lack thereof by government to intervene.

When you talk about famines, all of the war zones globally must be brought into focus. The Global Hunger Index reports there are 43 countries today with serious or alarming shortages of food.



Earthquakes continue to trend upwards in terms of frequency and severity. Many times, connected with volcanoes.

By the way, there are 43 if those actively popping off.

There are all things happening in the skies these days. Solar activity has been off the scales recently with a serious solar storm taking place just a few weeks ago. There are some who believe there is a connection with increased solar activity and earthquakes and vulcanism.

Just one month ago there were over 100 earthquakes 5.0 or greater in a single 24-hour period. On the same day of a major solar storm by the way.

What other trends do we see of the coming storm?

Globalism. Everything seems to be about creating global consensus these days. This is all pointing to a future world government to be consolidated under the Beast during the Tribulation.

This is something being seriously pursued.

World Governments Summit World Economic Forum

But can you figure out what is being said?

In his keynote speech at the World Government Summit (WGS) 2023, Klaus Schwab, stressed the urgency to develop new mechanisms that strengthen international cooperation in today's multipower world.

Schwab also stressed the need for concerted efforts, in light of the humanitarian crisis the world is witnessing, to implement structural transformations within various strategic sectors, including the economy, technology and politics.

The WEF President commended WGS for its role in preparing for the future and keeping abreast of new technical developments in a world dominated by rapid changes. (World Governments Summit 2023)

As measured by Freedom House, worldwide, freedom is in decline. Yes, this also includes this country. Then there are the technological changes required to enable basic Beast tech. This includes invasive surveillance in all arenas to include social media. China has paved the way in this. When you add AI to facial recognition software.

I have two different camera security systems at home. One is external, the other is internal. Both have recently added AI to their offerings in order to better differentiate between a false alarm and real alarm. It still needs some work because a lizard sitting on top of my doorbell can still set off the alarm. But on the back porch, a spider can set it off.

With AI improving and CCTV cameras everywhere all tied into the internet, you have the beginnings of the backbone required to support the Beast. All surveillance all the time.

Starlink is in operation and supplying internet to places never seen. And coming soon, neural uplinks so you can be connected to the hive mind, er internet, without the need of any other interface.



# Speaking of surveillance.

Among other ambitious promises, DARPA insists that Insight will be able to build pattern-of-life models that account for what DARPA calls social and cultural "dynamics" that vary from region to region, and even predict where a given target will travel based on their previous routes and communications. In the same vein, the NGA has software that tracks what people are saying on Facebook and Twitter in the areas being watched with systems like Gorgon Stare, putting the airborne imagery in the context of information that could be useful for analyzing factors like a city's "stability dynamic"—the intelligence community's term for the likelihood that mass violence might erupt at any given time. (Michel 2019, Kindle Location 2545)

In other words, research is already taking place to tie together various sources of information and come up with intelligence regarding future events. For example, at the company I worked at, we kept rather regular hours. But when a new software upgrade was about to be rolled out, then the parking lot would remain in use longer. Food deliveries were seen being made. Some cars never left. What if that was global?

#### Luke 21:25-28

""There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress among nations, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves, people fainting from fear and the expectation of the things that are coming upon the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."" (NASB 2020)

Time prevents me from being comprehensive on the signs, but we have seen enough to know, Jesus is returning for His church at any second. Is it today?



# **Works Cited**

- Ankerberg, John, and John Weldon. 2011. *The Facts on False Teaching in the Church.* Kindle Edition. ATRI Publishing.
- Barna, George. 2022. American Worldview Inventory 2021-2022, The Annual Report on the State of Worldview in the United States. Kindle Edition. Glendale, AZ: Arizona Christian University Press.
- —. 2023. "American Worldview Inventory 2023 Release #1: Incidence of Biblical Worldview Shows Significant Change Since the Start of the Pandemic." *Arizona Christian University*. February 28. Accessed December 27, 2023. https://www.arizonachristian.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/CRC\_AWVI2023\_Release1.pdf.
- —. 2023. *Helping Millennials Thrive, Practical Wisdom for a Generation in Crisis.* Kindle Edition. Edited by Tracy F. Munsil. Glendale, AZ: Arizona Christian University Press.
- Blaff, Ari. 2023. "UNRWA Staffers, Teachers Celebrated Hamas Massacre of Israeli Civilians, Watchdog Report Finds." *MSN.com.* November 7. Accessed December 27, 2023. https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/unrwa-staffers-teachers-celebrated-hamas-massacre-of-israeli-civilians-watchdog-report-finds/ar-AA1jxYWx.
- Bolen, Todd. 2012. "Golden Gate and Dome of Tablets from Mount of Olives." *Pictorial Library of Bible Lands Revised & Expanded, Jerusalem, Volume 3.* Prod. Todd Bolen.
- Busenitz, Irvin A. 2003. *COmmentary on Joel and Obadiah, Mentor Commentaries.* Geanies House: Mentor.
- Chabad.org. 2021. "Who Is Moshiach (the Jewish Messiah)?" *Chabad.org*. Accessed December 27, 2023. https://www.chabad.org/library/article\_cdo/aid/1121893/jewish/Who-Is-Moshiach-the-Jewish-Messiah.htm.
- Fox, Mira. 2023. "Hamas is calling its attack 'Al-Aqsa Flood.' Why is the Jerusalem mosque so important to Gaza?" *Forward*. October 7. Accessed December 27, 2023. https://forward.com/culture/563479/hamas-al-aqsa-flood-israel-gaza-attack-2023/.
- —. September. "Holy cow! Can one heifer herald the Third Temple and the end of the world as we know it?" Forward. 8 2023. Accessed December 27, 2023. https://forward.com/culture/560201/red-heifer-third-temple-jerusalem/.
- Fuhr, Al, and Gary Yates. 2016. *The Message of the Twelve: hearing the Voice of the Minor Prophets.* Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group.
- Got Questions Ministries. 2014-2021. *Got Questions? Bible Questions Answered.* Vol. 2. Bellingham, WA: Faithlife.
- Hitchcock, Mark. 2012. *The End: Everything You'll Want to Know about the Apocalypse.* Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale.
- Hitchcock, Mark, and Jeff Kinley. 2017. *The Coming Apostasy: Exposing the Sabotage of Christianity from within.* Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale.
- i24News. 2023. "Israeli FM issues warning for Nassrallah on northern border tour." *i24News.tv.* December 27. Accessed December 27, 2023.



- https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/israel/diplomacy/1703687683-israeli-fm-issueswarning-for-nassrallah-on-northern-border-tour.
- Jewsih News Syndicate. 2023. "Netanyahu: Israel will retain overriding security over Gaza 'for forseeable future'." *JNS.org.* December 26. Accessed December 27, 2023. https://www.jns.org/netanyahu-lays-out-3-prerequisites-for-peace/.
- Jones, Ryan. 2022. "Israeli Rabbi Says He's Already Holding Meetings With Messiah." *Israel Today.* September 29. Accessed December 27, 2023. https://www.israeltoday.co.il/read/israeli-rabbi-says-hes-already-holding-meetings-with-messiah/.
- Levy, David M. 1987. *Joel, the Day of the Lord: A Chronology of Israel's Prophetic History.* 1st Edition. Bellmawr, NJ: Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry.
- Michel, Arthur Holland. 2019. Eyes in the Sky: The Secret Rise of Gorgon Stare and How It Will Watch Us All. Kindle Edition. New York, NY: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company.
- Miller, Steve. 2022. Foreshadows: 12 Megaclues That Jesus' Return Is Nearer than Ever. Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers.
- Mitchell, A. Wess. 2023. "America Is a Heartbeat Away From a War It Could Lose." *Foreign Policy.* November 16. Accessed December 27, 2023. https://foreignpolicy.com/2023/11/16/us-russia-china-gaza-ukraine-world-war-defense-security-strategy/.
- Olander, David E. 2008. "The Pre-Day of the Lord Rapture." In *Dispensationalism Tomorrow & Beyond: A Theological Collection in Honor of Charles C. Ryrie*, edited by Christopher Cone. Fort Worth, TX: Tyndale Seminary Press.
- Olander, David. 2009. *The Greatness of the Rapture: The Pre-Day of the Lord Rapture.* Edited by Kenneth R. Cooper and Christopher Cone. Fort Worth, TX: Tyndale Seminary Press.
- Price, Randall. 2022. "Update on the Bilding of the Third Temple." *Jewish Voice*. October 7. Accessed December 27, 20223. https://www.jewishvoice.org/read/article/update-building-third-temple.
- Rovner, Dina. 2023. "UNRWA: Hate Starts Here, How UNRWA Teachers Indoctrinate Palestinian Children and Promote Terrorism and Antisemitism." *unwatch.org*. Edited by Hillel Neuer. November. Accessed December 27, 2023. https://unwatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/UNW\_119\_\_\_UNRWA\_Report\_2023\_November\_\_2023-11-05\_\_web.pdf.
- Ryrie, Charles Caldwell. 1981. What You Should Know about the Rapture, Current Christian Issues. Chicago, IL: Moody Press.
- Schaeffer, Francis A. 1982. The God Who Is There. Vol. 1, in The Complete Works of Francis A. Schaeffer: A Christian Worldview, by Francis A. Schaeffer. Westchester, IL: Crossway Books.
- Schorr, Daniel. 1988. "Regan Recants: His Path From Armageddon to Detente." *Los Angeles Tlme.* January 3. Accessed December 27, 2023. https://www.latimes.com/archives/laxpm-1988-01-03-op-32475-story.html.



World Governments Summit. 2023. "Klaus Schwab urges new mechanisms to boost international cooperation in a multipower world." *worldgovernmentsummit.org.* February 14. Accessed December 27, 2023.

https://www.worldgovernmentsummit.org/press/releases/klaus-schwab-urges-new-mechanisms-to-boost-international-cooperation-in-a-multipower-world.