



Prophecy in Perspective

Dr. Scott Gregory Downing

An email newsletter

prophecyinperspective.com

The Importance of Bible Prophecy

Why Study It?

Part 2

But He replied to them, "When it is evening, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.'" And in the morning, 'There will be a storm today, for the sky is red and threatening.' Do you know how to discern the appearance of the sky, but cannot discern the signs of the times? Matthew 16:2-3

The Lord Jesus has equipped us to understand certain events and conditions that will occur in the future because He loves us. Things that are important for the Lord ought to be important to us. Being Omniscient, God desires to show us how He knows what lies ahead for the world and even for us individually. There are, of course many things that God chooses not to show us about the future. The Bible tells us: ***The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law"*(Deuteronomy 29:29)**. You and I need to humbly thank God for both what He desires to show us and also for what He chooses to keep from us. The God of Israel is all wise! There is no God like Him! All other so called gods are false! David prayed: ***"O LORD, there is none like thee, neither is there any God beside thee, according to all that we have heard with our ears."* (1 Chronicles 17:20)**

Our personal Bible study and prayer time are also indispensable elements in our Christian lives. The Holy Spirit will make known to you the truths that will transform your thinking and give you helpful understanding to overcome the temptations of the world the flesh and the Devil and to walk through the trials of life with victory. By personal Bible study and prayer you will gain insights as to God's amazing plans for you and for the world. As you read the Bible systematically each day, and as you pray, you will develop a great understanding and assurance that the prophecies of Scripture offer. God has designed the Bible and the prophecies of the Bible for these reasons. Why not begin a systematic study of the Bible by reading it each day?

Jesus' Prophetic Warnings to Israel

Iranian backed Hezbollah has been attacking Israel by firing rockets from the Gaza in recent weeks. With each passing day, hatred for Israel gets more volatile and direct, even from our own US Congress! Jesus warned the future residents of Israel of what to look for in the latter days leading up to and during the coming Great Tribulation period. I have been teaching on Jesus' prophecies recently as related to this period. Here is a brief overview of that coming time of tribulation for Israel, from my study book: [Transforming Truths - End Times and Prophecy:](#)

We can hear the distant rolling thunder and see the lightning on the nearing horizon of the latter days of Bible Prophecy. We are drawing nearer to the close of the Church Age and the beginning of the Great Tribulation period. The Bible has a great deal to tell us about the course of our present age and of the ages to come. It is the Lord's revealed will that we study the events of the End Times for the reasons given above. One key chapter in the Word of God that tells us much about the unfolding of the End Times is found in Matthew 24 where Jesus is answering several questions from His disciples about the events of the End Times. The disciples asked three questions: **"When shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?" (Matthew 24:3).** Notice that these are three pertinent questions that show genuine and healthy interest in the Lord's plans for the Jewish people and for the world in the future. Jesus did not chide them for asking these questions. This affirms that it is right for us to ask questions about the second coming of Christ. He proceeded to answer them in great detail. In verses 4-51, Jesus discussed with His disciples the future tribulation period and what would mainly concern the Jews in that time.

It is important to note that there is no reference made of the Church as such for most of this chapter until the closing portions of it. Knowing this will keep us from much confusion as to whom Jesus refers in this chapter. So, this section of prophecy has primarily to do with the nation of Israel and the Gentiles, as well as world conditions and events at the end of the age. This will be the time which Daniel spoke of in Daniel chapter 9. It will be a period that will last seven years. This period will play out in two three and one half year periods. A brief study of this chapter will help prepare us to better understand the main events of the last days.

In verses 4-14, Jesus warns His disciples that at the time just preceding His return there will be great deceptions through the arising of false prophets (4-5). There will be international unrest through wars and rumors of wars, as well as Divinely caused geological and environmental upheavals globally, through the appearance of pestilences, famines, and earthquakes (6-8). These are only the **"beginning of sorrows"**(9). The unfolding of events will grow more and more troubling for Jews who will believe on Jesus as the Messiah at that time. They will be hunted and betrayed and hated by all nations. There will be many betrayals among the Jews. Love will grow cold. We learn from Daniel and Revelation that this preliminary period will last for three and one half years. Yet, the gospel of the coming Kingdom (and the King) **"shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come"** (10-14).

At the end of the first three and one half years the future Anti-Christ whom Jesus calls, **"the abomination of desolation"** will rise to assert power and cruel control from Jerusalem by establishing himself as King and God in the Temple which at that time will have been rebuilt (15). Jesus warns that the Jews will need to escape out of Jerusalem quickly. There will be rampant persecution and confusion combined with false prophets who will even show great signs and wonders to deceive even the believing Jews. This will be the second three and one half years of the seven year Tribulation period called the **"Great Tribulation."** Concerning the false prophets that will arise in that time, Jesus commands the future disciples not to believe them nor to follow where they will lead for it will result in certain death (16-25).

At the close of this second three and one half year period Jesus will return **"as lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west."** Jesus said that is how the **"coming of the Son of man will be."** There will be cosmic disturbances without parallel at any time in previous history. Then God shall send his angels...and...gather together his elect (Jews) from all over the globe and reassemble them in the land of Israel (27-31).

The last section of this prophecy contains Jesus' hints as to how to determine how close the coming of the Lord would be in that future time. I believe verses 32-51 mainly concern Israel in the Tribulation period. Yet, these verses also give an insight to us in this age as to what to look for in our own times as indications of the approaching of the time of the Lord's return. It will be a time like the ripening of a fig tree when Israel will be re-gathered to their own land (32-36). It will be like the days of Noah when there was rampant unbelief and wickedness in the world. There will be a growing environment of chaos and turmoil for Israel and for the world. Jesus encourages the believers to ***"Watch therefore, for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come...Therefore be ye also ready, for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh"*** (37-44).

In the latter days most church ministries and members will degrade into an attitude of moral complacency and doctrinal unbelief. (1Timothy 3:1-5, Revelation 3:14-19). Much teaching will ignore prophecy and focus on personal felt needs, social issues, popular trends and prosperity. After the rapture of the true Church and the seven year Tribulation takes place, the Lord's return to the earth will bring swift judgment upon false believers for their abusive treatment of their fellow servants and for their practice of selfishly eating, drinking and being drunken. The disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ in the Church as well as the Jewish believers of the future Tribulation period are encouraged to be on the constant watch while continually and faithfully serving the Lord until the day of His coming for His church (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18), and of His return to the earth with His Church to rescue the believing Jews, and to set up His Kingdom in Jerusalem (45-51). (Transforming Truths - End Times and Prophecy, Dr. Scott Downing, pp. 187-188)

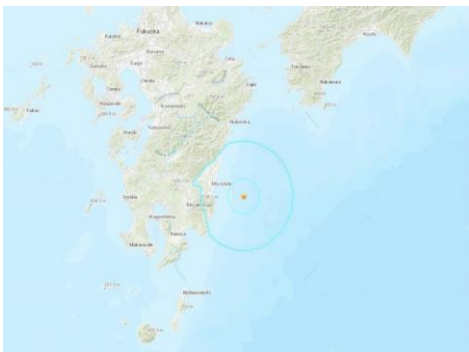
CURRENT PROPHECY RELATED NEWS

EARTHQUAKE

TOKYO (REUTERS) - An earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 6.3 hit off the coast of southern Japan on Friday (May 10) but no tsunami warning was issued and there were no immediate reports of damage, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

The quake struck at 8.48am local time (7.48am Singapore time), with its epicenter off the coast of Miyazaki prefecture in the southern island of Kyushu at a depth of 20km, the agency said.

The US Geological Survey (USGS) put the magnitude of the quake at 6.4.



'We're in the End Times': Why Satan Worship Is on the Rise in Pop Culture

Netflix's new season of *Chilling Adventures of Sabrina* just came out, and kids are raving over it. But Tina Griffin—also known as the "Counter Culture Mom"—says this new, live-action show takes witchcraft to a

whole new level. (Charisma Magazine, 5/1/2019)

"We're not talking about a one- or two-minute scene in a short program," she says. "The entire theme of the program is about séances, black cats, magic, Wicca. We've got Sabrina's Sweet 16 party with the devil, Satan, showing up at her birthday party." But it's not just *Chilling Adventures of Sabrina* that's glorifying witchcraft and glamorizing the devil. Griffin says Satan worship has infiltrated pop culture through music and social media too. She shares example after example of top celebrities who adhere to Satanism, wear occult clothing or brand themselves with Satanic symbols. But why are we seeing this sudden spike in Satan worship? "It's because Satan has little time left," (Rapture Ready News, 5/10/ 2019)

American Military News (5/8/2019) reports: The U.S. is deploying B-52 bombers to the Middle East in preparation for potential attacks that have been threatened by Iran or its allies on U.S. troops.

The Pentagon confirmed Tuesday that the deployment includes four B-52 bombers, two of which reportedly departed Tuesday from Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana, and are expected to arrive Wednesday at Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar, CBS News reported Tuesday.

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE (Yom Ha'atzmaut) DAY ISRAEL!

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8 THROUGH THURSDAY, MAY 9TH!! Celebrating Israel's independence as a nation, reestablished in the land in of Israel in 1948 after nearly 2,000 years!! Happy Birthday Israel!

For I will take you from among the nations and gather you out of all the countries, and I will bring you back into your own land.

Ezekiel 36:24

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