

PART II

WARNING SIGNS OF THE TRIBULATION

Seven major *signs* of the Tribulation have already been fulfilled, 5 major *signs* are currently being fulfilled and 15 more major *signs* have yet to be fulfilled.

Those who are “watching” for specific *warning signs* to take place before the Tribulation are obedient servants. The Lord Jesus Christ commanded us to “*watch*” for His return:

Watch therefore: for ye know not on what day your Lord cometh. (Matthew 24.42)

THREE

WARNING SIGNS THAT HAVE BEEN FULFILLED

Scripture teaches us that numerous *warning signs* will be fulfilled prior to the Tribulation. These are the major *signs* that have already been fulfilled:

- 1-Balfour Declaration (Zephaniah 2.1a)
- 2-Return of the Jews to the Holy Land, (Ezekiel 37.1-14; Zeph. 2.1-2)
- 3-The two World Wars – birth pains (Matthew 24.6-8)
- 4-Founding of the United Nations (Luke 21.29-32)
- 5-Israel becomes a nation (Matthew 24.32)
- 6-Capture of Jerusalem – end of the *Times of the Gentiles* (Luke 21.24)
- 7-Gaza abandoned by Israel (Zephaniah 2.4).

The Balfour Declaration (Zephaniah 2.1a)

The Balfour Declaration was the preparation for the re-gathering of the Jews to the Holy Land:

Gather yourselves together, yea, gather together...

After World War I, the British took control of the Ottoman Empire and officially declared that it favored the return of the Jews to the Holy Land to establish a Jewish nation:

Foreign Office,
November 2nd, 1917.

Dear Lord Rothschild,

I have much pleasure in conveying to you, on behalf of His Majesty's Government, the following declaration of sympathy with Jewish Zionist aspirations which has been submitted to, and approved by, the Cabinet:

His Majesty's Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country.

I should be grateful if you would bring this declaration to the knowledge of the Zionist Federation.

Yours Sincerely,
Alfred James Balfour

The Return of the Jews to the Holy Land (Ezekiel 37.12-14; Zephaniah 2.1-2)

The re-gathering of the Jews to the Holy Land was prophesied in detail by Ezekiel:

Therefore prophesy, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord Jehovah: Behold, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, O my people; and I will bring you into the land of Israel. And ye shall know that I am Jehovah, when I have opened your graves, and caused you to come up out of your graves, O my people. And I will put my Spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I will place you in your own land: and ye shall know that I, Jehovah, have spoken it and performed it, saith Jehovah. (Ezekiel 37.12-14)

The re-gathering of the Jews to their ancient homeland before the Tribulation was also prophesied by Zephaniah:

Gather yourselves together, yea, gather together, O nation that hath no shame; before the decree bring forth, before the day pass as the chaff, before the fierce anger of Jehovah come upon you, before the day of Jehovah's anger come upon you. (Zephaniah 2.1-2)

The re-gathering of the nation of Israel began in the latter part of the 19th century, culminating on May 14, 1948, with the re-establishment of the nation of Israel. Jews from all over the world flooded into Israel and turned an agrarian land into a thriving industrial nation.

The truth that the Jewish people must return to their ancient homeland had been known among some theologians throughout the Church Age. The most famous theologian who wrote about the physical return of the Jews to the Holy Land was Sir Isaac Newton (1642-1727). He stated around 250 years before the nation of Israel was re-established that the Jews would return to the Holy Land and form a nation again:

So then the mystery of this restitution of all things is to be found in all the Prophets: which makes me wonder with great admiration that so few Christians of our age can find it there. For they understand not that the final return of the Jews captivity... (Moore, Philip N., *The End of History Messiah Conspiracy*, pp. 493-494; citing Franz Kobler, *Newton on the Restoration of the Jews*, 1943, *Yahudah Manuscript* 6)

The two world wars (The First Birth Pains - Matthew 24.6-8)

The two world wars were the first birth pains that Jesus spoke of in His briefing to His disciples on eschatology. Called the Olivet Discourse, it is found in Matthew chapters 24 and 25, Mark 13 and Luke 21:

And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars; see that ye be not troubled: for these things must needs come to pass; but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise

against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; and there shall be famines and earthquakes in divers places. But all these things are the beginning of travail.

World Wars I and II, the first birth pains, were followed by other wars, as well as by many famines and major earthquakes. A woman's labor pains come closer together as the time of birth draws near. The wars, famines, and earthquakes will take place in shorter intervals the closer we get to the Rapture/Tribulation. World War I prepared the land of Israel for the Jews, and World War II prepared the Jews for the land.

Founding of the United Nations (Luke 21.29-32)

The founding of the United Nations in 1945 was prophesied by Jesus in the Olivet Discourse:

And he spake to them a parable: Behold the fig tree, and all the trees: when they now shoot forth, ye see it and know of your own selves that the summer is now nigh. Even so ye also, when ye see these things coming to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh. Verily I say unto you, this generation shall not pass away, till all things be accomplished.

The putting-forth of the leaves of all the trees was the establishment of the United Nations in 1945. That political organization is the foundation for the creation of the "end-times" world government that is still many years away. In 1948, the fig tree (Israel) put forth its leaves – it became a nation. Israel could not have been recognized as a nation without the United Nations to do it.

Israel becomes a nation (Matthew 24.32-33)

The re-establishment of the nation of Israel in her ancient homeland on May 14, 1948, is considered to be the most important *sign* of the "end times" by most eschatologists. The parable of the fig tree is about Israel's rebirth:

Now from the fig tree learn her parable: when her branch is now become tender, and putteth forth its leaves, ye know that the summer is nigh; even so ye also, when ye see all these things, know ye that he is nigh, even at the doors.

Capture of Jerusalem (Luke 21.24)

The next *sign* was the end of the "times of the Gentiles" that Jesus prophesied of: *And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led captive into all the nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.*

The fulfillment of the end of the *times of the Gentiles* was the taking of the city of Jerusalem by the Jews on June 17, 1967.

Abandonment of Gaza (Zephaniah 2.4)

The abandonment of the Gaza Strip was prophesied more than 2500 years ago:

For Gaza shall be forsaken, and Ashkelon a desolation; they shall drive out Ashdod at noonday, and Ekron shall be rooted up.

Israel abandoned Gaza in August of 2005.

Conclusion

Seven major Bible prophecies have been fulfilled alerting the world that the “last days” are upon us. Everyone should “watch” for the *warning signs* that have yet to be fulfilled before the start of the Tribulation.

STUDY QUESTIONS

Chapter 3

1. Have a few major prophecies been fulfilled that had to be fulfilled before the Tribulation could start?
2. Could the Tribulation have started before the Jews returned to Israel and became a nation?
3. Were the Rapture and the start of the Tribulation *imminent* events before 1948?

FOUR

WARNING SIGNS THAT ARE BEING FULFILLED

We have seen 7 warning signs of the Tribulation already been fulfilled, and we are currently “watching” 5 more as they are being fulfilled:

- 1-The “*falling away*” (2 Thessalonians 2.3; 2 Timothy 2.1-5; 4.3-4)
- 2-Increase in travel and knowledge (Daniel 12.4)
- 3-Rise of anti-Semitism (Psalm 83)
- 4-Mark of the Beast technology (Revelation 13.15-18).
- 5-Israel dwelling securely (*betach*) (Ezekiel 38.8, 11, 14).

The first *sign* began in the 19th century, the second and third began before the start of the Second World War, and the fourth began after that war. They will not be fully completed until the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

The falling away (2 Thessalonians 2.1-3; 2 Timothy 4.3-4)

The “*falling away*” or “apostasy” of the Church from the faith began in the 19th century. It was prophesied by Paul almost 2000 years ago:

Now we beseech you, brethren, touching the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and our gathering together unto him; to the end that ye be not quickly shaken from your mind, nor yet be troubled, either by spirit, or by word, or by epistle as from us, as that the day of the Lord is just at hand; let no man beguile you in any wise: for it will not be, except the falling away come first, and the man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition. (2 Thessalonians 2.1-3).

The “*falling away*” of the Church from the faith in the “last days” began with the acceptance of higher criticism, which was spearheaded by the Graf-Wellhausen hypothesis in the late 19th century. Karl Graf and Julius Wellhausen argued that the Old Testament was not inspired by God. According to them, it is a compilation of books that were written by priests and scribes, rather than the men that tradition says wrote the books. They taught that the Pentateuch (Genesis through Deuteronomy) was not written by Moses, but by four groups of scribes. One group in Judah preferred to use the proper name of God (Yahweh). They wrote their account around 950 BC. A second group in the northern kingdom used Elohim for God. They wrote their account around 850 BC. The third group focused on the law and wrote their account around 650 BC. The fourth group focused on the priestly duties and wrote their account around 550 BC. One scribe, maybe Ezra, used these four accounts to create the Pentateuch. According to the high-priests of higher criticism, four teams of scribes wrote the book of Isaiah, and Daniel was written around 170 BC.

Soon after the Graf-Wellhausen hypothesis was adopted by several Protestant denominations, they began to question fundamental doctrines of the Christian faith. Some eventually rejected the historicity of the first eleven chapters of the book of Genesis. They did not believe that Adam and Eve were the progenitors of the Human race. They also rejected the universal flood of Noah's time, along with many other miracles recorded in the Old Testament. They rejected the divine judgment of Sodom and Gomorrah, the ten plagues of Egypt, the parting of the Red Sea by Moses, the collapse of the walls of Jericho by trumpet blasts, the sun standing still for about 24 hours and Jonah being swallowed by a large fish. They even rejected the virgin birth of Jesus and most of His miracles, along with the miracles of the apostles. Some denominations have gone so far as to claim that Jesus Christ is not God the Son, but was just a good and wise teacher.

The men of the Jesus Seminar (a group of 150 people, founded in 1985, who vote to decide what Jesus did or did not do and say) do not believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Instead, they have determined, by their votes, that Jesus did not say all the things that the Bible says He said, nor did He ever claim to be God, or the Son of God.

The rejection of the Bible's divine inspiration by some denominations has led to the preaching of sermons that have little substance and do not edify believers to live holy lives. Teaching in some churches is shallow, and most members know little about the Bible. Few churches have solid discipleship programs, and only a few dedicated believers study the Bible on their own.

The theory of evolution, which was published in the middle of the 19th century, also struck a blow against Christianity. In the 20th century, some denominations and churches declared that God used the mechanism of evolution to bring about the Human race. The Roman Catholic Church is one of those churches.

There have been many other aspects of the "apostasy." Far too many congregations no longer desire to be taught the Scriptures; instead, they seek out pastors who preach feel-good sermons and give them all kinds of social programs to make them happy. This sad situation is ubiquitous in the Western world. It was also prophesied of by Paul:

For the time will come when they will not endure the sound doctrine; but, having itching ears, will heap to themselves teachers after their own lusts; and will turn away their ears from the truth, and turn aside unto fables. (2 Timothy 4.3-4)

The pastors hired by the apostate congregations do not feed their souls. Many Christians in the Western world are fed lukewarm, sour milk and remain spiritual babies until death, as Paul warned about:

Of whom we have many things to say, and hard of interpretation, seeing ye are become dull of hearing. For when by reason of the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need again that some one teach you the rudiments of the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of solid food. For every one that partaketh of milk is without experience of the word of righteousness; for he is a babe. But solid food is for fullgrown men, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern good and evil. (Hebrews 5.11-14)

The abandonment of the fundamental doctrines of the Christian faith has led many Christians to accept some of the unscriptural practices of the world such as pre-marital sex, intoxication, use of illegal drugs, watching illicit television shows and movies, and listening to inappropriate music. The lifestyle of these so-called Christians is similar to that of non-Christians. Paul prophesied that in the last days people would basically be evil:

But know this, that in the last days grievous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, haughty, railers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, implacable, slanderers, without self-control, fierce, no lovers of good, traitors, headstrong, puffed up, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God; holding a form of godliness, but having denied the power therefore. From these also turn away. (2 Timothy 3.2-5)

While it is understandable that the unsaved live unholy lives, it is tragic that these negative attributes are found among far too many Christians. Today most Christians do not know that we are living in the “apostasy” of the “last days.” Some think they are living in a time of revival.

All Christians should take to heart a quote by General George Smith Patton, Jr: “It is better to fight for something than to live for nothing.” Christians should fight the “good fight” for Jesus Christ as Paul did (2 Timothy 4.7) rather than live for their desires of the flesh (1 John 2.15-17).

Increase in travel and knowledge (Daniel 12.4)

The increase in travel and knowledge that was prophesied by Daniel began to be fulfilled just before World War II, when the militaries of the great powers started an arms race:

But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.

The need by both sides to win the second great war sped the development of several key technologies that have increased man’s knowledge and his ability to travel anywhere in the world at fantastic speeds.

Rocket technology skyrocketed during the war, and eventually enabled mankind to send men to the moon. It also enabled mankind to send unmanned probes throughout the solar system and beyond. The American space shuttles routinely circle the earth in less than 90 minutes.

Just before World War II, the jet engine was invented separately by Dr. Hans von Ohain (Germany) and Sir Frank Whittle (Britain). Shortly after the war, jets were put into military service by America, Britain, France and the Soviet Union. Commercial air travel by jet quickly became commonplace, enabling a person to fly anywhere in the world in hours, rather than days.

The number of people flying today has increased dramatically. In 1930, only 300,000 people flew by plane. Today, more than 600,000,000 passengers take to the air each year in America alone. The speed of air travel has gone from a couple of hundred miles-per-hour in 1930, to 1450 mph in supersonic jets. The speed of

military aircraft has increased ten-fold from the end of World War II. The fastest pre-jet fighter was the World War II P-38 Lightning Bolt, with a top speed of 450 mph. Then the X-15 reached a record speed of 4,519 mph (Flight 188, October 3, 1967, Pete Knight). Current experimental aircraft are capable of flying at even greater speeds. The super-secret Aurora spacecraft is said to fly at more than twice the speed of the X-15.

The speed of ground travel by train, bus and cars has increased greatly, with massive railway networks and highway systems abounding. Improvement in engine technology has enabled automobiles to travel from an original speed of about 20 mph to more than 200 mph. The bullet trains in Japan travel at more than 200 mph, and experimental magnetic-levitation trains have reached speeds of 362 mph.

During World War II, a tool was developed which has enabled mankind to double its knowledge about every eighteen months. Man's knowledge doubled from the flood of Noah's day to 1800, and again from 1800 to 1900. It doubled again from 1900 to 1950. Since then, it has been doubling about every 18 months. The tool that has enabled man's knowledge to explode is the computer. The first British computer (Colossus) was put into use in 1941 for code breaking. An American computer was built from 1943-1946 to calculate artillery firing tables. It was named ENIAC (Electronic Numerical Integrator and Computer), but was not put into use until after the war in 1946. Since then the power and capabilities of the computer have gone into orbit. The ability to keep track of virtually everything people do, say and buy with the world computer networks will give the future world ruler total control over everyone on the planet. No one will be able to buy or sell or function in society without the permission of the False Prophet and the Antichrist (Revelation 13.15-18).

The Rise of anti-Semitism (Psalm 83.1-5 - A prayer for Ezekiel 38 to occur)

The rise of anti-Semitism in the last days was prophesied nearly 3000 years ago:

O God, keep not thou silence:

Hold not thy peace, and be not still, O God.

For, lo, thine enemies make a tumult;

And they that hate thee have lifted up the head.

Thy take crafty counsel against thy people,

And consult together against thy hidden ones.

They have said, Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation;

That the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance.

For they have consulted together with one consent;

Against thee do they make a covenant.

Anti-Semitism has been around since the enslavement Jews in Egypt (Exodus 5.10-19). It was during the 20th century that anti-Semitism became so unbearable that without the creation of the state of Israel, the survival of the Jewish people would have been in doubt. Hitler systematically exterminated one-third of them during World War II. It was this crime that forced the Jewish people to establish their own nation in Israel as soon as possible after the war. Since the creation of the modern state of Israel, anti-Semitism has continued throughout the world. It will continue, as prophesied by Asaph (Psalm 83), and not stop until Jesus Christ returns. It should be

noted that in this psalm the Islamic nations seek to destroy Israel as a nation! God will remove the Islamic presence with the events of Ezekiel 38.1-39.16.

Mark of the Beast technology (Revelation 13.15-18)

It is at the mid-point of the seven-year Tribulation that the Antichrist forces everyone on Earth to worship him and his image, and take his mark to be able to buy or sell:

And it was given unto him to give breath to it, even to the image to the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as should not worship the image of the beast should be killed. And he causeth all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free and the bond, that there be given them a mark on their right hand, or upon their forehead; and that no man should be able to buy or to sell, save he that hath the mark, even the name of the beast or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. He that hath understanding, let him count the number of the beast; for it is the number of a man: and his number is Six hundred and sixty and six.

The technology to make this possible must be developed before the start of the Tribulation. It is logistically impossible to develop and implement a technology to track what everyone on Earth buys and sells in 3½ years.

Before the Tribulation starts, a large number of people will have some kind of device implanted in their bodies that will allow them to make purchases. When the Antichrist requires everyone to take his “mark” during the Tribulation, whatever it may be, most people will accept it without a second thought. The penalty for taking his “mark” and worshipping him is eternal punishment in the Lake of Fire:

And another angel, a third, followed them, saying with a great voice, If any man worshippeth the beast and his image, and receiveth a mark on his forehead, or upon his hand, he also shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is prepared unmixed in the cup of his anger; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: and the smoke of their torment goeth up for ever and ever; and they have no rest day and night, they that worship the beast and his image, and whoso receiveth the mark of his name. (Revelation 14.9-11)

Israel living securely (Ezekiel 38.8, 11, 14)

Israel is currently dwelling securely (*betach*). This sets the stage for the *imminent* attack by Russia and its Muslim allies:

After many days thou shalt be visited: in the latter years thou shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword, that is gathered out of many peoples, upon the mountains of Israel, which have been a continual waste; but it is brought forth out of the peoples, and they shall dwell securely, all of them. ...and thou

shalt say, I will go up to the land of unwalled villages; I will go to them that are at rest, that dwell securely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates. ...Therefore, son of man, prophesy, and say unto Gog, Thus saith the Lord Jehovah: In that day when my people Israel dwelleth securely, shalt thou not know it?

The Hebrew word *betach* means “a place of refuge” and “safety,” “both the fact (safety) and the feeling (trust)” (Strong’s 983). Israel is living securely at this time. The attack by Russia is an *imminent* event that can take place at *any moment*.

Conclusion

Five major Bible prophecies are being fulfilled before our eyes. These *warning signs* along with the *7 signs* that have been fulfilled should make every Christian take notice that the Tribulation is racing toward us. We can determine how close it is by “watching” the remaining *15 warning signs* as they are fulfilled.

STUDY QUESTIONS

Chapter 4

1. Are we living in a time of apostasy, and has there been a massive increase in knowledge and travel in the last few decades?
2. Has technology been developed that could be used by the Antichrist to control what everyone on Earth buys and sells.
3. Is Israel living “securely,” and is the attack by Russia an imminent event?

FIVE

WARNING SIGNS YET TO BE FULFILLED

Christians should “watch” for the final *warning signs* of the Tribulation to be fulfilled. They may not necessarily be fulfilled in the order given, but they must all be fulfilled before the start of the Tribulation. Christians may see some or all of them fulfilled before the Rapture:

- 1-Destruction of Russia, Islam and Egypt (Ezekiel 38.1-39.16; 30.1-5)
- 2-First stage of the conversion of Israel and also Gentiles (Ezekiel 39.7)
- 3-Rebuilding the ancient city of Babylon (Zechariah 5.5-11)
- 4-World church & the rise of the False Prophet (Rev. 17.1-5, 18; 13.11-17)
- 5-World economy (Revelation 13.15-18)
- 6-World government (Daniel 7.23)
- 7-World government breaks into 10 divisions (Daniel 7.24)
- 8-Rebuilding of the Temple (Revelation 11.1-2; 2 Thessalonians 2.4)
- 9-Rise of Antichrist (Is. 28.15; Dan. 9.27; 7.20, 24; Rev. 6.1-2; 13.1-10)
- 10-The “*overflowing scourge*” (Joel 2.1-11; Isaiah 28.18-19)
- 11-A time of “*peace and safety*” (1 Thessalonians 5.3)
- 12-Appearing of Elijah (Malachi 4.5)
- 13-Indications of the impending covenant between Israel and the Antichrist (Isaiah 28.15).
- 14-Signs in space and on Earth (Joel 2.30-31)
- 15-Distress and fear among the nations (Luke 21.25-27).

Destruction of Russia, Islam and Egypt (Ezekiel 38.1-9, 21-23; 39.6-8; 30.1-5)

Russia will be destroyed when it attacks Israel, along with its Arab and Muslim nation allies. These Muslim nations (Russia has a large Muslim population) must be removed before a world government and a world religion can be established. The Russian-Islamic invasion of Israel will put an end to the Islamic religion and Muslim influence in the world. Once the military and economic power of the Muslim nations is eliminated, the “New World Order” of the Antichrist will be established with little resistance:

And the word of Jehovah came unto me, saying, Son of man, set thy face toward Gog, of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal, and prophesy against him, and say, Thus saith the Lord Jehovah: Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal: and I will turn thee about, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed in full armor, a great company with buckler and shield, all of them handling swords; Persia, Cush, and Put with them, all of them with shield and helmet; Gomer, and all his hordes; the house of Togarmah in the

uttermost parts of the north, and all his hordes; even many peoples with thee. Be thou prepared, yea, prepare thyself, thou, and all thy companies that are assembled unto thee, and be thou a guard unto them. After many days thou shalt be visited: in the latter years thou shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword, that is gathered out of many peoples, upon the mountains of Israel, which have been a continual waste; but it is brought forth out of the peoples, and they shall dwell securely, all of them. And thou shalt ascend, thou shalt come like a storm, thou shalt be like a cloud to cover the land, thou, and all thy hordes, and many peoples with thee. (Ezekiel 38.1-9)

And I will call for a sword against him unto all my mountains, saith the Lord Jehovah: every man's sword shall be against his brother. And with pestilence and with blood will I enter into judgment with him; and I will rain upon him, and upon his hordes, and upon the many peoples that are with him, an overflowing shower, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone. And I will magnify myself, and sanctify myself, and I will make myself known in the eyes of many nations; and they shall know that I am Jehovah. (Ezekiel 38.21-23)

And I will send a fire on Magog, and on them that dwell securely in the isles; and they shall know that I am Jehovah. And my holy name will I make known in the midst of my people Israel; neither will I suffer my holy name to be profaned any more: and the nations shall know that I am Jehovah, the Holy One in Israel. Behold, it cometh, and it shall be done, saith the Lord Jehovah; this is the day whereof I have spoken. (Ezekiel 39.6-8)

The small number of Muslims that remain will understand that Jehovah is the true God, and submit to a world government. During this battle, Egypt will fight with Russia against Israel, and be judged by God:

The word of Jehovah came again unto me, saying, Son of man, prophesy, and say, Thus saith the Lord Jehovah: Wail ye, Alas for the day! For the day is near, even the day of Jehovah is near; it shall be a day of clouds, a time of the nations. And a sword shall come upon Egypt, and anguish shall be in Ethiopia, when the slain shall fall in Egypt; and they shall take away her multitude, and her foundations shall be broken down. Ethiopia, and Put, and Lud, and all the mingled people, and Cub, and the children of the land that is in league, shall fall with them by the sword. (Ezekiel 30.1-5)

The Russian/Islamic invasion of Israel must take place at least 3½ years before the Tribulation starts. Ezekiel 39.9 says, “*they that dwell in the cities of Israel shall go forth, and shall make fires of the weapons and burn them*” for 7 years. At the mid-point of the Tribulation, when the Antichrist commits the abomination of desolation, the residents of Jerusalem are commanded to flee to the mountains (Matthew 24.15-18). If the residents of the cities burn the weapons for 7 years, Russia will attack Israel at least 3½ years before the Tribulation starts, because most people will not be living in the city of Jerusalem from the mid-point of the Tribulation on.

Will Israel put a stop to Iran's nuclear weapons program? If they do, it may prompt Russia and its allies to attack Israel.

First stage of the conversion of Israel and also Gentiles (Ezekiel 39.7)

After Russia and its allies are destroyed, the people of Israel will realize that it was due to divine judgment:

And my holy name will I make known in the midst of my people Israel; neither will I suffer my holy name to be profaned any more: and the nations shall know that I am Jehovah, the Holy One in Israel.

Many Jews will come to Jesus Christ in faith for salvation by calling on the name of Jesus (Romans 10.13). This will be the first stage of the conversion of the nation of Israel. During the Tribulation more will be saved after seeing the divine judgments that fall upon the world (Revelation 6.12-17; 8.1-13; 9.1-21; 11.3-6, 13; 16.1-21; 18.8-11, 15-19). Since the War of Ezekiel 38-39 takes place 3½ years prior to the start of the Tribulation the first stage of the conversion of the nation of Israel will also take place before the Tribulation.

Rebuilding the ancient city of Babylon (Zechariah 5.5-11)

The ancient city of Babylon will be rebuilt before the start of the Tribulation. The first world religion was created in Babylon by Nimrod and his wife Semiramis. The final world religion (church) will be headquartered there. (For details concerning this see my book *The Millennium, the Apocalypse and Armageddon*.)

Saddam Hussein of Iraq began to rebuild the ancient city, but his efforts were cut short. A future ruler of Iraq will resume the rebuilding project, and it will be nearly completed (if not completely finished) prior to the start of the Tribulation:

Then the angel that talked with me went forth, and said unto me, Lift up now thine eyes, and see what is this that goeth forth. And I said, What is it? And he said, This is the ephah that goeth forth. He said moreover, This is their appearance in all the land (and, behold, there was lifted up a talent of lead); and this is a woman sitting in the midst of the ephah. And he said, This is Wickedness: and he cast her down into the midst of the ephah; and he cast the weight of lead upon the mouth thereof. Then lifted I up mine eyes, and saw, and, behold, there came forth two women, and the wind was in their wings; now they had wings like the wings of a stork; and they lifted up the ephah between earth and heaven. Then said I to the angel that talked with me, Whither do these bear the ephah? And he said unto me, To build her a house in the land of Shinar: and when it is prepared, she shall be set there in her own place.

The destruction of most of the Muslim and Arab nations in the Middle East will open the door for the Western nations to rebuild the ancient city of Babylon. The Bible says this city will be rebuilt and become the center of the world economy. The rebuilding project will begin before the Tribulation because it is virtually impossible to build a thriving city that is the economic capital of the world (Revelation 18.9-19) in just 3½ years. We should “watch” for this *warning sign* to be fulfilled.

The call to rebuild the ancient city of Babylon has already begun:

Iraq's Ancient Babylon To Be Restored

February 12, 2009

BAGHDAD – The Iraqi government will invite UNESCO to visit ancient Babylon this month to evaluate damage at the site, parliamentarian Mufid al-Jazaeri told RFE/RL's Radio Free Iraq.

Al-Jazaeri, former Iraqi culture minister and chairman of parliament's committee on culture and antiquities, said that repairs and reconstruction at the ruins will begin once a report on the extent of the damage is complete.

The Hanging Gardens of Babylon, which is about 100 kilometers south of Baghdad, were built in 600 B.C. and were considered one of the seven wonders of the world.

Al-Jazaeri told RFI that Babylon's ruins sustained heavy damage under Saddam Hussein's regime and during the U.S.-led invasion in 2003 when a portion of the site was used as a military base by coalition forces.

Al-Jazaeri urged that Babylon remain closed to the public until restoration is complete. (Radio Free Europe Radio Liberty, 2.12.2009)¹

While Babylon is being rebuilt the archeological find of the last two millennia will be made. Excavators will find the "bones" of the apostle Peter. This sensational discovery will compel the Roman Catholic Church to move its headquarters to that city as described in Zechariah 5.5-11.

The land of Shinar is the location of the ancient city of Babylon. The woman is the World Church, which will be led by the Roman Catholic Church. After Peter's "bones" are found the World Church will move from Rome to Babylon (Zechariah 5.5-11). (More details concerning the bones of Peter can be found in Appendix E.)

World church and rise of the False Prophet (Revelation 17.1-5, 18; 13.11-17)

A world church must be in place before the Tribulation as John prophesied:

And there came one of the seven angels that had the seven bowls, and spake with me, saying, Come hither, I will show thee the judgment of the great harlot that sitteth upon many waters; with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and they that dwell in the earth were made drunken with the wine of her fornication. And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness: and I saw a woman sitting upon a scarlet-colored beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and decked with gold and precious stone and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations, even the unclean things of her fornication, and upon her forehead a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF THE HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. (Revelation 17.1-5)

And the woman whom thou sawest is the great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth. (Revelation 17.18)

This false church will be formed before the start of the Tribulation. We have seen efforts to unite all of the religions of the world into one super religion. This effort will intensify and eventually be obvious to everyone. In the next chapter we describe the work to create a “World Church.” Even though a world religion may be a good idea to the natural man, it will be used by the Antichrist to deceive mankind into worshipping him instead of Jehovah. This coming world church will have a leader – the False Prophet:

And I saw another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like unto lamb, and he spake as a dragon. And he exerciseth all the authority of the first beast in his sight. And he maketh the earth and them dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose death-stroke was healed. And he doeth great signs, that he should even make fire to come down out of heaven upon the earth in the sight of men. And he deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by reason of the signs which it was given him to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast who hath the stroke of the sword and lived. And it was given unto him to give breath to it, even to the image to the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as should not worship the image of the beast should be killed. And he causeth all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free and the bond, that there be given them a mark on their right hand, or upon their forehead; and that no man should be able to buy or to sell, save he that hath the mark, even the name of the beast or the number of his name. (Revelation 13.11-17)

The False Prophet will be the head of this world church. When it is formed he will be a leader in its creation. He may be the Pope of the Roman Catholic Church which will be the driving force behind it. He will be the top henchman of the Antichrist who will enforce his dictates, especially the one requiring everyone on Earth to worship the Antichrist or his image, and to take his “mark” to be able to buy or sell. Those who refuse the “mark” will be beheaded. Since 1996 there has been a provision for execution by guillotine in America.² That has been the preferred method of execution in France since the French Revolution.

A world church must be established prior to the Tribulation. It is unthinkable that the False Prophet could unite all of the religions of the world in 3½ years. There have been great efforts to do this for the last 100 years without success (Chapter 14, page 157).

World economy (Revelation 13.15-18)

There must also be a world economic system in place before the Rapture and the start of the Tribulation, because midway through the seven-year Tribulation the Antichrist and the False Prophet will take total control of a world economic system. As we have noted previously, at that point, the False Prophet will force everyone on Earth to worship the Antichrist and take his “mark” to be able to buy and sell. Everyone will be forced to worship the Antichrist or his image to get the “mark of the Beast”:

And it was given unto him to give breath to it, even to the image to the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as should not

worship the image of the beast should be killed. And he causeth all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free and the bond, that there be given them a mark on their right hand, or upon their forehead; and that no man should be able to buy or to sell, save he that hath the mark, even the name of the beast or the number of his name. (Revelation 13.15-18)

Before the Tribulation starts, there will be a technology of some kind that will allow a world dictator to control what everyone on Earth buys and sells. In Chapter 13 we describe what that technology may be. It is virtually impossible to develop and implement that technology in 3½ years if it is not in place before the Tribulation starts. Remember, during the Tribulation the Antichrist will force everyone on Earth to take his mark to be able to buy or sell. If that technology, whatever it is, is not in use prior to the Tribulation the Antichrist will have just 3½ years to develop and implement it. That is a virtual impossibility.

People will not be able to receive government benefits, be able to work or hire employees, drive a vehicle, get any kind of license or do just about anything without the “mark of the Beast.”

World government (Daniel 7.23)

Once Russia and its allies are destroyed (Psalm 83; Ezekiel 38.1-39.16), the nations of the world will establish a world government:

Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be a fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all the kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces.

Daniel prophesied that there would be a “world government” in the “end times.” Note the phrase, “*the whole earth.*” This final kingdom will be like the first world kingdom under Nebuchadnezzar. God gave him rule over the entire world (Daniel 2.36-38). Though he did not rule over everyone on Earth, he was given the entire Earth to rule over. The final world government will not only be given power over all the nations, it will rule over them.

The world government must be established before the Tribulation because it will break into 10 divisions (Daniel 7.24) before then. It is after it breaks into 10 divisions that the Antichrist rises to power (Daniel 7.24). If the Antichrist comes to power before the Tribulation, as Paul explained (2 Thessalonians 2.3), then the world government must also be established before the Tribulation. The Antichrist rises to power “*after*” the world government breaks into 10 divisions.

World government breaks into 10 divisions (Daniel 7.24)

Sometime after the world government is established, it will break into 10 divisions:

And as for the ten horns, out of this kingdom shall ten kings arise: and another shall arise after them; and he shall be diverse from the former, and he shall put down three kings.

No one knows how long it will be before the “world government” is broken into 10 divisions. It will be divided before the start of the Tribulation because the Antichrist rises to power after the break up of the world government into 10 divisions. Notice that the Antichrist “*shall arise after them*” (after the 10 kings rise to power out of the world government). Since the Antichrist rises to power before the Tribulation (see page 141), the world government will be formed and break into 10 divisions before then.

Antichrist will seek to be a member of the group of rulers that governs the world. This is why it is unwise to try to identify the Antichrist before this event. Once he joins the group of 10 it will be obvious to every student of Bible prophecy that he is the Antichrist.

Rebuilding of the Temple (Revelation 11.1-2; 2 Thessalonians 2.4)

We know the Temple will be rebuilt and used to offer sacrifices by the mid-point of the Tribulation:

And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and one said, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein. And the court which is without the temple leave without, and measure it not; for it hath been given unto the nations: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months. (Revelation 11.1-2)

At the mid-point, the Antichrist will enter the Temple and declare himself to be God:

*He that opposeth and exalteth himself against all that is called God or that is worshipped; so that he sitteth in the temple of God, setting himself forth as God. (2 Thessalonians 2.4)*The Temple must be rebuilt and in use before the Antichrist can enter it, claiming to be God. Once Russia and its Muslim/Arab allies are destroyed, Israel will begin to rebuild her Temple. That project will be completed before the Tribulation begins. If Israel waits until after the start of the Tribulation to begin the rebuilding project, it is unlikely that it could be completed in just 3½ years. It must be completed by that time because it is at the mid-point of the seven-year Tribulation that the Antichrist enters it and claims to be God. It is a very important *warning sign* for which Christians must “watch.”

Rise of Antichrist (Isaiah 28.15; Daniel 9.27; 7.20, 24; Revelation 6.1-2; 13.1-10)

Once the world government breaks into 10 divisions, the Antichrist will rise to power out of obscurity. After the Antichrist has risen to a position of power on the

world stage, he will sign the seven-year covenant of death with Israel that marks the beginning of the Tribulation:

Because ye have said, We have made a covenant with death, and with Sheol are we at agreement; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, it shall not come unto us; for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves. (Isaiah 28.15)

This peace treaty with Israel is the official start of the seven-year Tribulation:

And he shall make a firm covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease; and upon the wing of abominations shall come one that maketh desolate; and even unto the full end, and that determined, shall wrath be poured out upon the desolate. (Daniel 9.27)

The Antichrist will then seek to join the club of ten rulers who control the world government. Three of those rulers will not want him to join their club. They will hinder his schemes and prevent him from becoming dictator of the world. At the mid-point of the Tribulation, those three rulers unite and go to war against him. They are the hindering force of 2 Thessalonians 2.6. He defeats them, yet they give him a mortal wound. Satan then resuscitates him. The wounds he receives will be evident – a damaged right arm and right eye (Zechariah 11.17). After his victory, he becomes the world dictator:

And concerning the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn which came up, and before which three fell, even that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake great things, whose look was more stout than its fellows. (Daniel 7.20)

And as for the ten horns, out of this kingdom shall ten kings arise: and another shall arise after them; and he shall be diverse from the former, and he shall put down three kings. (Daniel 7.24)

And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures saying as with a voice of thunder, Come. And I saw, and behold, a white horse, and he that sat thereon had a bow; and there was given unto him a crown: and he came forth conquering, and to conquer. (Revelation 6.1-2)

And he stood upon the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast coming up out of the sea, having ten horns, and seven heads, and on his horns ten diadems, and upon his heads names of blasphemy. And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his throne, and great authority. And I saw one of his heads as though it had been smitten unto death; and his death-stroke was healed: and the whole earth wondered after the beast; and they worshipped the dragon, because he gave his authority unto the beast; and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? And who is able to war with him? and there was given to him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and there was given to him authority to continue forty and two months. And he opened his

mouth for blasphemies against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, even them that dwell in the heaven. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and there was given to him authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation. And all that dwell on the earth shall worship him, every one whose name hath not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb that hath been slain. If any man hath an ear, let him hear. If any man is for captivity, into captivity he goeth: if any man shall kill with the sword, with the sword must he be killed. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints. (Revelation 13.1-10)

It is at the mid-point of the Tribulation that the Antichrist enters the Holy of Holies of the rebuilt Temple in Jerusalem and sets up a statue of himself (Matthew 24.15). He declares that he is God Almighty (2 Thessalonians 2.4) and stops the daily sacrifices of the nation of Israel (Daniel 9.27). At this point, the Antichrist begins a pogrom against the Jewish people, and tries to destroy them (Revelation 12.13). The people of Israel flee and are given supernatural help to escape the Antichrist (Revelation 12.14-16).

There has been a desire for a world dictator for some time. Paul Manzur, a proponent of world government, said we must eventually have a dictator:

So, in order to control the diverse bureaucracies required, a politburo will develop, and over this group organization there is likely to arise the final and single arbitrator – the master of the order, the **total dictator**. (Malachi Martin, *The Keys of this Blood*, p. 343, emphasis mine)

The Antichrist meets his final doom when Jesus Christ returns to Earth at the end of the Tribulation. He has the Antichrist and the False Prophet cast into the Lake of Fire:

And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought the signs in his sight, wherewith he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast and them that worshipped his image: they two were cast alive into the lake of fire that burneth with brimstone. (Revelation 19.20)

The “overflowing scourge” (Joel 2.1-11; Isaiah 28.15, 18-19)

Just prior to the start of the Tribulation, an army of demonic creatures is set loose by God to terrorize the Middle East, including the nation of Israel. Joel sees the following events take place before the Tribulation starts. Notice that he says the “*day of Jehovah is nigh at hand*”:

Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain; let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of Jehovah cometh, for it is nigh at hand; a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness, as the dawn spread upon the mountains; a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after them, even to the years of many generations. A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth: the land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness;

yea, and none hath escaped them. The appearance of them is as the appearance of horses; and as horsemen, so do they run. Like the noise of chariots on the tops of the mountains do they leap, like the noise of a flame of fire that devoureth the stubble, as a strong people set in battle array. At their presence the peoples are in anguish; all faces are waxed pale. They run like mighty men; they climb the wall like men of war; and they march every one on his ways, and they break not their ranks. Neither doth one thrust another; they march every one in his path; and they burst through the weapons, and break not off their course. They leap upon the city; they run upon the wall; they climb up into the houses; they enter in at the windows like a thief. The earth quaketh before them; the heavens tremble; the sun and the moon are darkened, and the stars withdraw their shining. And Jehovah uttereth his voice before his army; for his camp is very great; for he is strong that executeth his word; for the day of Jehovah is great and very terrible; and who can abide it? (Joel 2.1-11)

The army of demonic creatures described in Joel continues into the Tribulation for an undisclosed period of time. (This demonic army is different from the demonic armies in Revelation Chapter 9.)

When the Antichrist rises to power he exerts control over the “*overflowing scourge*.” He promises mankind to stop the demonic army. This promise is what prompts the unsaved to celebrate, saying they finally have, “*Peace and safety*” (1 Thessalonians 5.3). The Antichrist will keep the “*overflowing scourge*” idle for a brief period. During this time he convinces Israel to sign a covenant with him:

Because ye have said, We have made a covenant with death, and with Sheol are we at agreement; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, it shall not come unto us; for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves. (Isaiah 28.15)

Israel reluctantly signs a covenant, trusting the Antichrist to control the demonic army. Included in this covenant is a provision that allows the nation of Israel to resume her daily sacrifices. It is the signing of this covenant that begins the Tribulation. The covenant is kept by the Antichrist for a time. The demonic army then resumes its campaign of terrorizing Israel and other nations:

And your covenant with death shall be annulled, and your agreement with Sheol shall not stand; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, then ye shall be trodden down by it. As often as it passeth through, it shall take you; for morning by morning shall it pass through, by day and by night: and it shall be nought but terror to understand the message. (Isaiah 28.18-19)

Time of “*peace and safety*” (1 Thessalonians 5.1-3)

Paul clearly taught the church in Thessalonica that before the Tribulation starts there will be a time of “*peace and safety*”:

But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that aught be written unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh

as a thief in the night. When they are saying, Peace and safety, then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall in no wise escape.

The “*day of the Lord*” is the Tribulation. Right before the start of the “*day of the Lord*” (Tribulation), the unsaved believe they have achieved worldwide peace. At that time, they say that they have entered a period of “*peace and safety*.” (We know it is a period of false “*peace and safety*” because the Antichrist will not keep his promise to keep the “*overflowing scourge*” under control, but the unsaved do not know that.)

Paul goes on to say that believers should not be caught by surprise the period of false peace ends:

But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief: for ye are all sons of light, and sons of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness; so then let us not sleep, as do the rest, but let us watch and be sober. (1 Thessalonians 5.4-6)

They will know that shortly after the “*overflowing scourge*” stops its campaign of terror, and the false peace has been achieved that the Rapture has finally become an *imminent* event. Israel will quickly sign the “*covenant with death*” with the Antichrist. On the day that Israel signs that covenant the Rapture will take place.

The Appearing of Elijah (Malachi 4.5-6)

Another *sign* to watch for is the appearing of Elijah. Malachi prophesied that before the Tribulation starts Elijah will return:

Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and terrible day of Jehovah comes. And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers; lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

Elijah may appear during the time of “*peace and safety*.” He will do his work, but the nation of Israel will not respond to his ministry. Instead, they will sign the covenant with the Antichrist and suffer the consequences.

Indications of the impending covenant between Israel and the Antichrist (Isaiah 28.15)

The Antichrist will sign a covenant with the nation of Israel. Christians will not see Israel sign this covenant (Daniel 9.27) because they will have been raptured earlier, but they should see preparation for the signing of the covenant. When they see the “*overflowing scourge*” terrorizing mankind they will know the signing of the covenant is imminent:

Because ye have said, We have made a covenant with death, and with Sheol are we at agreement; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, it shall not

come unto us; for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves. (Isaiah 28.15)

Signs on the day of the Rapture

Signs in space and on Earth (Joel 2.30-32)

On the day the Tribulation starts, there will be a few other significant *warning signs*:

And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of Jehovah cometh. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of Jehovah shall be delivered (by the rapture); for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those that escape (believers will escape the Tribulation judgments by the Pre-Tribulation Rapture), as Jehovah hath said, and among the remnant those whom Jehovah doth call.

These *warning signs* will be clear to every student of Bible prophecy. They will then know that the Rapture is *imminent* and is about to take place. The Tribulation will start shortly after the Rapture with the signing of the covenant by the Antichrist and Israel (Daniel 9.27).

Distress and fear among the nations (Luke 21.25-27)

Those who are not saved and unlearned Christians will have no idea that the Tribulation will soon start. They will be greatly afraid because of these *signs*, just as the Bible says:

And there shall be signs in sun and moon and stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, in perplexity for the roaring of the sea and the billows; men fainting for fear, and for expectation of the things which are coming on the world: for the powers of the heavens shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

These signs begin before the rapture and will increase in severity and intensity throughout the Tribulation (Revelation 4.5; 8.5; 11.19; 16.18) up to the glorious appearing. But then in verse 28 Jesus said, “*But when these things begin to come to pass, look up, and lift up your heads; because your redemption (the rapture with the redemption of your body) draweth nigh.*”

Conclusion

There are numerous *warning signs* of the approaching Tribulation for which all disciples of Jesus Christ should be diligently “watching.”

Seven major *end-times* prophecies have already been fulfilled:

- 1-Balfour Declaration (Zephaniah 2.1a)
- 2-The Return of the Jews to the Holy Land (Ezekiel 37.1-14; Zeph. 2.1-2)
- 3-The two World Wars – birth pains (Matthew 24.6-8)
- 4-Founding of the United Nations (Luke 21.29-32)
- 5-Israel becomes a nation (Matthew 24.34)
- 6-The Capture of Jerusalem – end of “*times of Gentiles*” (Luke 21.24)
- 7-Gaza abandoned by Israel (Zephaniah 2.4).

Five other major *end-times* prophecies are currently being fulfilled:

- 1-The “*falling away*” (2 Thessalonians 2.3)
- 2-Increase in travel and knowledge (Daniel 12.4)
- 3-Rise of anti-Semitism (Psalm 83)
- 4-Mark of the Beast technology (Revelation 13.15-18).
- 5-Israel dwelling securely (*betach*) (Ezekiel 38.8, 11, 14).

The 8 *warning signs* that take place, from a few years to several months, before the Tribulation are:

- 1-Destruction of Russia, Islam and Egypt (Ezekiel 38.1-39.16; 30.1-5)
- 2-First stage of the conversion of Israel and also Gentiles (Ezekiel 39.7)
- 3-Rebuilding the ancient city of Babylon (Zechariah 5.5-11)
- 4-World church & the rise of the False Prophet (Rev. 17.1-5, 18; 13.11-17)
- 5-World economy (Revelation 13.15-17)
- 6-World government (Daniel 7.23)
- 7-World government breaks into 10 divisions (Daniel 7.24)
- 8-Rebuilding of the Temple (Revelation 11.1-2; 2 Thessalonians 2.4).

The 5 *warning signs* that take place a short time before the Tribulation are:

- 1-Rise of Antichrist (Daniel 7.20, 24; Revelation 6.1-2; 13.1-10)
- 2-The “*overflowing scourge*” (Joel 2.1-11)
- 3-A time of “*peace and safety*” (1 Thessalonians 5.3)
- 4-Appearing of Elijah (Malachi 4.5)
- 5-Indications of the impending covenant between Israel and the Antichrist (Isaiah 28.15).

The final *warning signs* that take place on the day the Tribulation starts are:

- 1-Signs in space and on Earth (Joel 2.30-31)
- 2-Distress and fear among the nations (Luke 21.25-27).

We must remember Jesus rebuked the religious leaders of His time for not knowing the time they were living in:

Ye hypocrites, ye know how to interpret the face of the earth and the heaven; but how is it that ye know not how to interpret this time? (Luke 12.56)

Jesus rebuked the Pharisees for not knowing the time of His First Coming. They failed to analyze the time they were living in. They missed the **What** (*signs* of the First Coming of the Messiah). If we do not “watch” for the **What** (*signs* of the Tribulation), we will also not be ready **When** Christ returns.

All of these *warning signs* must be fulfilled before the start of the Tribulation. Christians should keep close “*watch*” of their fulfillment. As they are fulfilled we will understand that the Rapture is that much closer.

STUDY QUESTIONS

Chapter 5

1. How many major prophecies have yet to be fulfilled prior to the Tribulation?
2. Will it be several years at least before those *warning signs* are fulfilled?
3. Will a world government and economic system be firmly in place before the Tribulation starts?
4. Will a world church be formed before the Tribulation starts?
5. Will the demonic army of Joel 2.1-11 (the “*overflowing scourge*”) terrorize mankind before the Tribulation starts?
6. Will there be a time of “*peace and safety*” before the Tribulation starts?
7. Will the Antichrist be identified before the start of the Tribulation?
8. Is it possible that Christians may see some of these prophecies fulfilled before the Rapture?
9. Are the *warning signs* of the Tribulation also *warning signs* of the Rapture?