2020 Signs of the Endtime Series

Introduction to the Signs of the Endtime Series

We are certainly living in exciting times and maybe on the threshold of some cataclysmic changes! As events unfold many of us can’t help but wonder what the future holds for us and our planet. These posts hopefully will provide answers that will prepare you for what’s ahead.

Biblical prophets foretold many things that concern today’s world. Many of the prophecies in the Bible have already been fulfilled but we won’t go into those in this series. These posts are just an over view of what we can expect before Jesus’ second coming. But when you realize that the current state of the world was foretold so specifically, it stands to reason that the biblical prophecies which have not yet been fulfilled will also come to pass. A world government with a bestial leader and enforced financial system will arise. Persecution of those who refuse to cooperate with the Antichrist regime will take place, but at the same time God will miraculously care for and empower His people to keep them even in trying times. And then God will intervene when Jesus Christ returns to rescue His people, defeat the forces of evil at the Battle of Armageddon, and establish His everlasting kingdom of love on earth.

While the Bible is very clear on certain major events, there are still many details that are open to conjecture. The Bible is often cryptic in what it says about some events and we might not understand some of the things it is talking about until they happen. Nor may things actually happen as we have imagined them to happen. The one thing we do know is they will happen, but I would suggest you leave yourself open to be surprised by God. The point being is these posts are just intended to provide a foundation of understanding to its readers so that as the Endtime events begin to transpire, they might be aware of what is happening and have a choice as how to react to them. Possibly if I get enough interest I will do more in-depth and detailed studies of specific Endtime prophecies.

As these awesome final events of the Endtime begin to unfold, you don’t have to be in fear or confusion, wondering what’s going on. Although Jesus warned that in the very last days “men’s hearts would be failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth” (Luke 21:26), He also said that those who know and love Him could face these same events positively and victoriously. He made it clear that as the final signs of the end came to pass, His return to rescue His people was that much closer: “Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption [deliverance] draws near” (Luke 21:28). So whether the end is coming soon are not it is better to be prepared and not need it than need it and not be prepared.

You may not like everything that you read in these posts but at least you will also know the happy ending. Even though some of it may look pretty bad, and although the Great Tribulation is a time of great troubles, most of those troubles befall the Antichrist and his followers, not the followers of God. Jesus will do many miracles to empower and protect His people. “The people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits” (Daniel 11:32). If you have faith in God and His Word, and you are living close to Him, then even if there’s war and turmoil, confusion and chaos on the outside, you can have peace on the inside—in your own heart—through the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ.

The best preparation for the future and for all eternity is by receiving Jesus as your Savior. He loves you, and will be with you and will guide you through whatever perilous times you may encounter. If you don’t yet know Jesus personally, you can receive Him and all the wonderful things He has to offer you right now. Even if you have questions and doubts about Him, He understands, and if you reach out to Him, He will make Himself real in your life. He says, “I stand at the door [of your heart] and knock. If you hear My voice and open the door, I will come into you” (Revelation 3:20). Will you give Him a chance? He’s waiting for you. Just sincerely pray the following simple prayer:

* Dear Jesus, I ask You to come into my heart. Please forgive me for all the wrongs I’ve done, and give me Your gift of everlasting life. Help me to love You, and help me to share Your love and truth with others. Amen.

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Endtime Series Part 1 -- What Jesus said has to happen before His second coming.

Throughout the ages a number of great religious teachers and seers have received special insight into the future. A discourse that is regarded by many as the most profound and detailed of its kind was given 2,000 years ago on a hillside just outside the ancient city of Jerusalem. There, a small band of truth-seekers gathered around their teacher, a carpenter-turned-preacher, known as Jesus of Nazareth. The question they asked Him prompted a response that spans the centuries and zeroes in on the days in which we may be living in.

* “Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, ‘Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?’” (Matthew 24:3).

What His followers were asking Him about is often referred to as the “Second Coming,” the dramatic personal return of Christ prior to His takeover of the world and the establishing of the kingdom of God on earth. The term “the end of the age” is used here not to signify the end of the planet, but the end of the current unjust and inhumane reign of man.

Jesus answered their question with not only one sign that would indicate when “the end” would be near, but He gave many specific indicators to be on the lookout for. Also included are some predictions by a number of other biblical prophets to help fill in the picture. It is these prophesied “signs” that we will now focus on.

Note: I won’t go into all the statistics to prove these events are happening but I’m sure if you give a quick google search you will find that all of them have been on the rise.

* You will hear of wars and rumors of wars. … For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.” — Jesus (Matthew 24:6–7a)

The Greek word for “nation” originally used in this prophecy, “nation shall rise against nation,” is ethnos, which is more accurately translated “a race” or “a tribe.” In other words, Jesus was saying that ethnic groups would rise against each other. This has been tragically fulfilled in recent times. Most wars since World War II have been internal conflicts.

Although the outlook may appear bleak, the day is soon coming when God Himself will intervene in this violent world, and war shall be forever abolished. The Bible tells us that when Christ returns to rule the earth, “He shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore” (Isaiah 2:4).

* “And there will be famines...” – Jesus (Matthew 24:7b)

Are we living in a time of increased famine? Drought and conflict were the most common causes. Worldwide, drought and other unfavorable weather conditions triggered food shortages, as well as excessive rains during the growing season devastated food crops in several countries. Plagues of insects have cause famine. Also war, civil strife and the lingering effects of past conflicts also cause famine as well as general economic problems severely undermined food security.

While it took all of human history until 1830 to reach a world population of one billion people, it only took 100 years to add a second billion (1930), 30 years for the third billion (1960), 16 years for the fourth billion (1976), and 11 years for the fifth billion (1987). World population grew by an estimated 77 million in 2002 and now tops 6.2 billion—more than double the level in 1960. The world’s population is expected to reach 8.5 billion by the year 2030. As the number of people increases, per capita availability of water and arable land decreases.

The terrible irony is that the world can produce enough food to feed its expanding population. While some famines are caused by drought or other natural disasters, most starvation in the world today could be avoided were it not for man’s selfishness and inhumanity. War, embargoes, government corruption, and economic oppression are all symptoms of the real problem. While innocent children starve, some rich nations destroy millions of tons of food in order to keep prices artificially high. If we could all learn to simply follow the Golden Rule and do unto others as we wish they would do unto us, even such daunting problems as world famine could be eliminated. Also experts tell us that just 23 days of military spending yearly could eradicate malnutrition worldwide.

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Endtime Series Part 2 -- Signs of the Endtime

We continue with what Jesus said has to happen before His second coming.

* “And there will be pestilences...” –Jesus (Matthew 24:7c)

Jesus said there would be an abundance of plagues and diseases marking the time of His return. Even though these things will become increasingly widespread in the days to come, the Bible also tells us that God can protect and even heal those who trust in Him: “No evil shall befall you, nor shall any plague come near your dwelling” (Psalm 91:10). “But to you who fear My name the Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings” (Malachi 4:2).

* “And there will be earthquakes, in various places...” – Jesus (Matthew 25:7d)

The prophet Isaiah also envisioned monster quakes in the last days, saying, “The foundations of the earth are shaken. The earth is ... shaken exceedingly. The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall totter like a hut … in the day of the great slaughter, when the towers fall” (Isaiah 24:18–20; 30:25).

* “Many false prophets will rise up and deceive many” -- Jesus (Matthew 24:11).

In Jesus’ discourse about the signs that would precede His return, three times He told His disciples that numerous false prophets would arise on the world scene, and that they would attract large followings. Not only are many people unknowingly falling for Satan’s deceptions, increasing numbers are following rank Satanism. The Bible tells us that if people willfully reject God’s truth, they will be given “strong delusion, that they should believe a lie” (2 Thessalonians 2:10–11). When we refuse the truth, there is nothing left to believe but a lie. This is why much of the world today is wide open for deceivers and false prophets. An abandoning of true faith frequently precedes “giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons.”

* “As the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be” – Jesus (Matthew 24:37).

Another condition that Jesus said would be prevalent immediately prior to His return would be unrestrained violence. How were things in “the days of Noah?” The book of Genesis tells us “the earth was corrupt before God, and was filled with violence” (Genesis 6:11). We are all painfully aware that today’s headlines are full of tragic stories of senseless violence.

* “Because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall grow cold” -- Jesus (Matthew 24:12).

This is how Jesus described the callous condition of people’s hearts in the days to come—just before His return. In a related passage, the apostle Paul writes, “But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God” (2 Timothy 3:1–4). Selfishness and cold-heartedness seem to be prevalent almost everywhere we look today.

* “And this Gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come” – Jesus (Matthew 24:14).

Jesus said that this particular sign—the Gospel being preached in all the world—was not merely something to indicate “the beginning of sorrows,” but was a specific sign that would indicate when the actual end of the age—beginning with Christ’s Second Coming—would be upon the world.

Never in the course of history has the Gospel been preached in all the world to all nations as it is right now.—If not directly by missionaries, it is certainly being preached by the modern mediums of radio, television, movies, telecommunications, and the Internet.

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Endtime Series Part 3 -- Other Signs of the Endtime

* “Many shall run to and fro…” (Daniel 12:4).

The modern means of communication and transportation that have made it possible for the Gospel to now be preached in all nations bring to mind another specific prediction regarding Endtime conditions. In 534 B.C., the prophet Daniel received an outstanding revelation. Afterwards, God told him not to worry that he couldn’t understand it all, that even though the prophecy was given to him, it wasn’t for him. It’s only been in recent years that the book of Daniel has been opened. The Lord told Daniel: “Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase” (Daniel 12:4).

Many running to and fro literally means “speeding about, here and there,” or as The Living Bible renders this verse, “travel shall be vastly increased.” When you consider that people’s means of transportation—horse and buggy, wagons, camels, boats, etc.—did not change substantially for thousands of years, you can appreciate the significance of this prophecy.

Two thousand six hundred years ago, another prophet described the following “in the days of the Lord’s preparation” before He returns. “The chariots come with flaming torches in the day of His preparation, and the spears are brandished. The chariots rage in the streets, they jostle one another in the broad roads; they seem like torches, they run like lightning” (Nahum 2:3–4). No horse-drawn chariot ever ran like lightning. Could this be a vision of our modern highways at night filled with vehicles with their headlights on? It would certainly fit the description. And if it is, our modern vehicle-filled highways are another indication that the Lord is soon to return.

And they certainly jostle one another in the broad roads. “Since the invention of the motor vehicle over a century ago, it is estimated that about 30 million people have been killed in road crashes.

One reason that many people today travel to distant lands, particularly young people, is because they are dissatisfied with their own country, culture, or religion, and are searching for solutions or answers elsewhere. These truth seekers and pilgrims bring to mind another prophecy about the last days, given by the Old Testament prophet Amos: “‘Behold, the days are coming,’ says the Lord God, ‘that I will send a famine on the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord. They shall wander from sea to sea, and from north to east; they shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the Lord’” (Amos 8:11–12).

Never in all of world history have people traveled the distances, the speeds, or with the frequency that hundreds of millions are traveling today. Truly many are running to and fro, just like God said they would in the “time of the end.”

* “Knowledge shall increase” (Daniel 12:4).

It is with good cause that the term “information overload” was coined in recent years. If the amount of information that is available is an indication of the knowledge available, knowledge has increased within our generation almost beyond imagination! Here are just a few mind-boggling facts on this:

The world produces between 1 and 2 exabytes of unique information [print, film, optical, and magnetic content] per year, which is roughly 250 megabytes for every man, woman, and child on earth. An exabyte is a billion gigabytes, or 1018 bytes, or roughly the equivalent to the textual content of a billion books. In 2000 the World Wide Web consisted of about 21 terabytes of static HTML pages, and is growing at a rate of 100 percent per year. One terabyte … is a million megabytes, or the equivalent of the textual content of a million books. Many Web pages are generated on-the-fly from data in databases, so the total size of the “deep Web” is considerably larger. GoogleTM, the Web’s largest [and fastest growing] search engine, has indexed more than 3 billion documents, including 2 billion Web pages. Around a million books are printed annually (that’s titles, not copies), 25,276 newspapers are published (that is separate newspapers, such as the International Herald Tribune, not the number of issues), 40,000 scholarly journals, 80,000 mass-market periodicals, 40,000 newsletters.

Although we have made tremendous strides scientifically and technologically, are we more fulfilled or happier than our predecessors? Our knowledge has radically increased, but much of our scientific genius has been squandered in the development of armaments and weapons of mass destruction. Hi-tech gadgets and luxuries are given priority while many of our fellow humans are hungry and destitute.

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Endtime Series Part 4-- Other signs of the Endtime

* “Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day [of Jesus’ Second Coming] will not come unless the falling away [from faith and belief in Jesus] comes first” (2 Thessalonians 2:3).

The “falling away” from faith in God and the turning to witchcraft has been taking place for a while now. An interesting thing that has happened since the Bible and prayer were officially banned and removed from U.S. public schools in 1962, many of these same schools now offer their pupils accredited courses in witchcraft and the occult.

Two fields in which paganism and Satanism have made tremendous inroads are the popular music business and the computer gaming industry. Just take a look at the number of album covers and rock videos that come complete with all the symbols, liturgies, and rituals of witchcraft and the occult. The most popular genre in computer games is based on demons and violence. Many involve role playing with open worship of Satan and the netherworld. The sights and sounds of Hell have seduced and driven countless people into lifestyles of drugs, perversion, violence, and sometimes even suicide. The most shameless acts of blasphemy and desecration are now socially acceptable in the name of audiovisual and multimedia entertainment and “freedom of expression.”

* “Now the [Holy] Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons” (1 Timothy 4:1).

Of course, the Devil doesn’t always show himself to be the evil and destructive spiritual force that he is. Quite the contrary. He and his agents frequently portray themselves as messengers of light and goodness. The apostle Paul explains, “Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness” (2 Corinthians 11:14–15). He is the arch-deceiver. Unfortunately, one reason a lot of people get caught up in the dark side of the spirit world is because they’ve been disillusioned by the apparent absence of spiritual reality in traditional religions.

* “On your skirts is found the blood of the lives of the poor innocents [babies]. I [God] have not found it by secret search, but plainly on all these things” (Jeremiah 2:34).

Previous generations would be appalled by such statistics of the radical increase in the number of abortions performed in the last several decades, despite the fact that advances in fetal science have made a compelling case that human life begins at conception. Surely the predicted days have arrived when hearts would grow cold and natural affection would fade away.

* This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: … (2 Timothy 3:1-9)

I don’t think this verse needs much explanation. It is a pretty clear list of the poor state that a majority of human kind has fallen into.

* And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams (Act\_2:17).

I just wanted to end this list of signs with an encouraging promise. That even in the mist of all this evil God is going to pour out His Spirit on all flesh. It’s up to us if we receive it or not.

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Endtime Series Part 5 --The Rise of a World Leader and Signing of the Covenant

(Note: From here on in, a lot of these events might be happening at the same time. I tried to put them in order as much as I could but we’ll just have to see how the timing of events play out as well as what the actual events look like.)

* “So they worshiped the dragon [the Devil] who gave power to the beast [the Antichrist]; and they worshiped the beast” (Revelation 13:4).

Once the other signs have been established the next thing to be looking for and which the Bible devotes numerous chapters to, is the rise of a world government headed by a Devil-possessed tyrant known as the Antichrist or “the Beast.” The 13th chapter of the book of Revelation says that the world is going to actually worship Satan, in the person of this bestial world leader.

The stage is rapidly being set for the world to accept global leadership. Famed British historian Arnold Toynbee (1889–1975) observed, “The nations are ready to give the kingdoms of the world to any one man who will offer us a solution to our world’s problems.” The first president of the United Nations General Assembly, Paul–Henri Spaak, who was also a prime minister of Belgium as well as a secretary-general of NATO, affirmed, “We do not want another committee, we have too many already. What we want is a man of sufficient stature to hold the allegiance of all the people and to lift us up out of the economic morass into which we are sinking. Send us such a man, and whether he be God or devil, we will receive him.”

It appears that this coming world leader will rise to power on a wave of global euphoria as he arrives on the scene to temporarily save the world from armed conflicts and desperate economic and political woes. Like Satan himself, who appears as an angel of light, this man will deceive most of the world into thinking that he is a great man of peace, a hero. The prophet Daniel wrote of the Antichrist that “he shall come in peaceably, and seize the kingdom by intrigue” (Daniel 11:21).

Whether this world government he heads is already in power or rises to power at the time (the next sign appears) the document known in the Bible as the Holy Covenant is signed or not, we don’t know for sure. What the Scriptures do state, though, is that this covenant will have a duration of seven years and will be pivotal to his claim to world leadership.

* "And he [the Antichrist] shall confirm a Covenant with many for one week" (Daniel 9:27).

The original Hebrew word that is translated "week" in the New King James Bible, the Bible translation we are quoting from in these posts, is shabua, which means "unit of seven." Therefore a little better, more understandable translation of this verse would be: "And he shall confirm the Covenant with many for one unit of seven." And by carefully studying the marvelous Messianic prophecy regarding the exact time of the first coming and crucifixion of Christ in verses 24 to 26 of Daniel chapter 9, we know that "one week" or "one seven" equals seven years. Thus the verse can be understood as saying, "And he shall confirm a Covenant with many for seven years."

This seven-year agreement will have to be a very ingenious compromise, and will no doubt deal with not only the Temple Mount, but also the entire city of Jerusalem. Today Jerusalem is an irresolvable issue. However, it seems like this pact will resolve the Middle East crisis (at least temporarily), a seemingly impossible task that has eluded the best efforts by world leaders since the founding of Israel in 1948. He will do so by working out a compromise between the Israelis and the Palestinians regarding Jerusalem and its holy sites.

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Endtime Series Part 6 --Breaking of the Covenant and beginning of the Tribulation

* When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso reads, let him understand:) …. — Jesus (Matthew 24:15a)

This is a very clear sign that Jesus told His disciples that would happen before He would return. Jesus said these words over five hundred years after Daniel gave these predictions. Dan 11:31 And arms shall stand on his (Anti-Christ or the Beast) part, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily sacrifice, and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate. And Dan 12:11 And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days. (3.5 years.)

But most of all Jesus said that we'd better understand, because He was placing this event in the future. He is saying that at the time of His life here on Earth, this event, the placing of the Abomination of Desolation, still had not occurred. (In the next post we will talk more about the Abomination of Desolation but for now let’s continue on with more details about the breaking of the covenant.)

* ... then there will be great tribulation such as has not been since the beginning of the world” – Jesus (Matthew 24:21).

Jesus said that when you see this image, the “abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place [temple] ... then there will be great tribulation such as has not been since the beginning of the world” (Matthew 24:15,21). Thus the name given to this period is the “Great Tribulation.” It will be a time when the Beast and his regime will institute a ruthless repression and persecution of believers in God (Daniel 7:21,25; 8:23–24; 11:31–35; 12:7,10; Revelation 13:5–7).

Although most of the world will initially hail the Beast as a political savior, three and a half years after the enactment of the seven-year covenant, he will revoke the peace pact and show his true colors. At this time he apparently will invade Israel and establish himself in Jerusalem, making that city his world capital (Daniel 11:45). His government will then outlaw all religions, except the worship of the Antichrist and an image of himself that will somehow be empowered to speak and “cause as many as would not worship [it] to be killed” (Revelation 13:14–15).

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Endtime Series Part 7 -- Abomination of Desolation and False Prophet

What did Jesus say would happen when this Abomination of Desolation appears?

* Therefore when you see the "abomination of desolation," spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (whoever reads, let him understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. For then there will be Great Tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. --Jesus (Matthew 24:15-21).

Jesus is here describing the beginning of the last three and a half years of the current epoch of the earth. In the parallel passage in the Gospel of Luke we see some more details of the events occurring at this moment. Jerusalem is surrounded and occupied by the armies of the Antichrist, and Jesus basically says that those in the vicinity should run for their lives. Obviously it is not a peaceful occupation, and most likely it is the culmination of a war.

So the placing of this Abomination of Desolation introduces the Great Tribulation period, the second three and a half years of the Antichrist's reign. When you see it standing there, you'll know the Tribulation has begun.

So the big question now is, what is this Abomination of Desolation? Jesus said you'd see it "standing in the holy place." Daniel 11:31 says the Antichrist "places there the Abomination of Desolation." Daniel 12:11 says that "the Abomination of Desolation is set up." He places it, he sets it up and it stands there, so it's some kind of standing object. In the 13th chapter of Revelation we find out that it's an image of the Antichrist himself. And it will be a most amazing machine.

To explain more about the Anti-Christ we now must introduce another evil Endtime personality known as the False Prophet.

* Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. And he exercises all the authority of the first Beast [the Antichrist] in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first Beast, whose deadly wound was healed. He [this two-horned beast] performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. (Revelation 13:11-13)

Who is this two-horned beast? We find the answer in Revelation 19:20, which states: "Then the Beast [the Antichrist] was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the Mark of the Beast and those who worshiped his image." This two-horned beast is called the "False Prophet." We don't know exactly who he will be, but it's clear from the passage above that he performs the multiple roles of being the Antichrist's propaganda minister and high priest of the worship of the Antichrist. He has some sort of extraordinary powers or genius, similar to the Antichrist himself, as he "performs great signs."

* And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the Beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the Beast who was wounded by the sword and lived. He was granted power to give breath to the Image of the Beast, that the Image of the Beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the Image of the Beast to be killed. (Revelation 13:14-15)

The order to kill all those who refuse to worship the Image of the Beast is obviously the beginning of the Great Tribulation. This meshes with the Scriptures about the Abomination of Desolation being set up at exactly the same time. So this Image and the Abomination of Desolation are the same thing.

From the description of the Image having "breath," it sounds like it's some kind of an automaton, a computer-operated cybernetic robot, programmed so that it can speak and act like it's alive and command the worship of the world. As far fetched as this would have sounded in John's day, to give life to this image is now quite feasible with the many advances that are being made in robotics and artificial intelligence.

The Image of the Beast will be able to not only speak, but also kill—or cause to be killed somehow. It will most likely be demonically inspired to where it actually has demonic intelligence, more than just what man has programmed it with. It's apparent that it will be a real wonder, and could really be worshiped by mankind. It will be the ultimate in idolatry: Man worshiping the crowning creation of his own hands—an abominable demon-possessed machine that desolates the world.

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Endtime Series Part 8 -- The “Mark of the Beast”

* “The False Prophet cause all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the Beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the Beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666" (Revelation 13:16-18).

It’s not clear when this happens either before the signing of the Covent or during the 1st part of the Covent or when he breaks the Covent and the tribulation begins but we know it is one of the end time signs.

This prophecy is truly remarkable. Think about it: Nearly 2,000 years ago the apostle John, who prior to meeting Jesus had been a fisherman by trade and had been called an “uneducated and untrained” man (Acts 4:13), predicts that a global economic system will one day be instituted in which everyone will be forced to receive a number, without which they will not be able to buy or sell. It is only since the recent advent of computers, and now electronic banking, that this prophecy could be fulfilled.

* The coming world leader will demand the world’s worship not merely because he has a severe ego problem.—He will be empowered or possessed by Satan himself. “The dragon [Satan] gave him his power, his throne, and great authority” (Revelation 13:2).

Satan has always wanted to be God. This is why he fell in the first place. The prophet Isaiah wrote, “How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! … For you said to yourself, ‘I will ascend to heaven and rule the angels. I will take the highest throne. … I will climb to the highest heavens and be like the Most High.’ But instead, you will be brought down to the pit of hell, down to its lowest depths” (Isaiah 14:12–15 TLB).

What Satan is really after when he causes the Antichrist government to set up the coming global financial system is to gain control over the people of the world and to get them to bow down and worship him. This is why the Bible warns, “If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God. … [T]hey have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name” (Revelation 14:9–11).

Notice there are two components to being the objects of this damnation: worshiping the Beast and taking his mark. The book of Revelation mentions these two things in tandem leading to damnation six separate times. There is a definite link between the two, though at this point in time it is not clear exactly what that will be. At first glance, it would seem the Mark is simply an economic and identification system, but from what the Scriptures indicate, it leads to much more. Beware!

So when you see the world government arise and its leader demands your allegiance, your loyalty, and even your worship, don’t fall for it. Regardless of the economic incentives offered or the retribution that threatens those who refuse his mark and number, give your love and worship to the true God, your Creator, who loves and cares for you, and who has promised He will see you through the days ahead if you put your trust in Him. The Bible says, “The people who know their God will be strong” (Daniel 11:32).

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Endtime Series Part 9 -- Anti-Christ Mortally Wounded

* I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the Beast. So they worshiped the dragon [the Devil] who gave authority to the Beast; and they worshiped the Beast, saying, "Who is like the Beast? Who is able to make war with him?" (Revelation 13:3-4)

This part is a little complicated but don’t get bogged down here the main point is at this time the Anti-Christ dies and comes back to life fully possessed by the Devil and demands all the world to worship him.

* We know that this is referring to the seventh head, the Antichrist, because a few verses later on we see that the Antichrist has a false prophet who "causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the … Beast [the Antichrist], whose deadly wound was healed … telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the Beast who was wounded by the sword and lived" (Revelation 13:12-14).

This assassination attempt on the Antichrist is the pivotal moment in his satanic career. A mortal wound is one that you die from. If he doesn't die from it, it cannot be said he was mortally wounded. This "head," in other words, is definitely dead. The Antichrist has been killed. End of story? No! He comes back from the dead. His "healing" is such a "miracle" that "all the world marvels."

Revelation 17:8 again states that "those who dwell on the earth will marvel … when they see the Beast that was, and is not, and yet is." Now things are going to get even more intriguing as we are presented with a riddle. "And the Beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition" (Revelation 17:11). This Beast of Revelation has only seven heads. So where does this eighth one pop up from? Somehow an eighth personality has entered the equation.

When the Antichrist first rises to power and confirms the seven-year Covenant, he is the head of the seventh great empire. But he is not yet really completely anti-Christ; he hasn't yet been fully possessed of the Devil. But "in the middle of the week," three and a half years after confirming the Covenant, he is killed and resurrected. This "resurrection" would serve as his credentials to divinity. It seems that it is at this point the Antichrist becomes possessed completely by the Devil. He looks like the very same man, the seventh head, only he is now the eighth.

The Bible records a definite behavior change at this point. The man is obviously evil of heart to begin with, but now he is no more Mr. Pretend-Nice-Guy. He will no longer be the same man who brought world peace, solved the thorny problem of Jerusalem, and made the Covenant. Now "the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition [Hell or damnation], who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God" (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4).

The Devil is the ultimate megalomaniac. Satan has always wanted to be worshiped as God. He even tried to get Jesus to "fall down and worship [him]" (Matthew 4:9). And now he is demanding that the world worship him. Satan in the form of a man is finally going to get what he's been after all the time, kingship of the world, and to be worshiped as God.

The Antichrist Beast will be Satan incarnate, Satan in the flesh, just as Jesus was God in the flesh. And this will result in hell on earth during those last three and a half years of the Antichrist's reign. "And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months" (Revelation 13:5).

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Endtime Series Part 10 -- Back to what is happening to God’s people.

* Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; … and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. … He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds –Jesus (Matthew 24:29–31).

I want to mention this one point as many Christians believe they will be rapture at the beginning of the tribulation but actually it is at the end. Notice it says immediately after the tribulation Jesus will come back and gather us together. So as much as we might want to avoid the Antichrist and his reign of terror, it seems like Christians alive on Earth at the time the Antichrist assumes power will, barring their deaths, remain on Earth during his reign.

So if we are going to be here during the tribulation let’s look at some of the things that are predicted for us during the tribulation.

* Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet,…. Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth. … She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne. Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days. (Revelation 12:1-6)

The woman in this vision is obviously giving birth to Jesus Christ. The first interpretation to come to mind is that she is Mary, the human mother of our Lord when He was on Earth. But things get a bit confusing with this interpretation when it says the woman fled into the wilderness for 1,260 days.

Several times the Bible refers to the second half of the Antichrist's seven-year reign as the Great Tribulation. "Then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be" (Matthew 24:21). Daniel talked about this time when he wrote, "At that time Michael [the archangel] shall stand up, the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time" (Daniel 12:1).

The Bible even tells us several times how long this Tribulation period will last, using several different yet synonymic terms: "three and a half years," "42 months," or "1,260 days" (Daniel 7:25; 9:27; 12:7; Revelation 11:2-3; 12:14; 13:5).

If these 1,260 days where "the woman" flees into the wilderness are the Tribulation period—which it seems they are—then the woman described above could not be Mary, as she long ago left this world for her heavenly reward. So the identity of this woman must have a different interpretation. Could this woman symbolize the believers of all time, the people of God, into whose lineage Jesus was born? This seems to be a viable interpretation, as during the 1,260 days of Tribulation the true Christians will be in the "wilderness" of this world. They will be outcasts, persecuted by the Devil and the Antichrist government forces, and many will be on the run and not able to live in the cities that will be the centers of Antichrist domination. However, God doesn’t leave us comfortless as He says in the last part of the verse “where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days.” So we can take heart God will take care of us as well as telling us exactly how many days it’s going to be.

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Endtime Series Part 11 -- Two Endtime Witnesses

* The people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits. And those of the people who understand shall instruct many -- Daniel (Daniel 11:32-33).

The Bible promises that during this time we will do exploits. This is very important because the plan for the Lord's people during this momentous and trouble-filled time is to witness to others and teach them and instruct them as to what is going on. The Antichrist regime will be horrible and oppressive, and many people are going to hate it and will want to know what they can do about it. Those who know God will be in their element because they will have multitudes of hungry hearts to win and teach the good news of God's Word and Jesus' imminent return.

People are going to be more receptive than ever then, just like they are now in times of personal trial, emergency, catastrophe, illness, or accident. A lot of people are going to believe then, and many are going to need salvation and need the good news. Those who understand from the Bible what's happening and what's going to happen will be a great encouragement to millions of people throughout the earth.

It costs something to witness, and in that day it is definitely going to cost some dedicated Christians who "know their God" their lives. The Antichrist is going to try to wipe them all out because they'll be telling the truth and exposing him. They're going to be "instructing many," warning them of who he really is. And he and his forces are going to be furious.

But if you love the Lord, don't fear the Tribulation. God's a much greater enemy to the Antichrist forces than they are to you. "He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world" (1 John 4:4). As His Word has said, "It is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you" (2 Thessalonians 1:6).

Powerful men and women of God, just like the ancient prophets and prophetesses of old, are going to be God's leaders and have supernatural, miraculous powers to protect and defend their flocks and followers and help them survive to the very end. Two such witnesses are mentioned in the following passage in Revelation 11:

* And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days [3½ years, the Tribulation period], clothed in sackcloth. … And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner. These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire. Now when they finish their testimony, the Beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them. And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. Then those from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three and a half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves. And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth. Now after the three and a half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. And they heard a loud voice from Heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they ascended to Heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them. (Revelation 11:3-12)

Certainly the power of these two witnesses is awesome. But it is not unprecedented. Elijah called down fire from Heaven and caused it not to rain for three years in Israel (2 Kings 1:9-15; 1 Kings 17:1; 18:1); Moses and Aaron brought plagues on their oppressors and caused the waters to be turned to blood (Exodus 7:17-21; 9:13-26). So these powers have been available to God's chosen before, and they will be available again in the Endtime.

It's going to be a time of great victory and marvelous testimony so that the whole world will hear. Multitudes of believers are going to survive right up until the very coming of the Lord. So there are going to be many people still functioning for the Lord and surviving and living by faith and preaching the Gospel. There are going to be millions of them still alive to see the Lord come.

And although there's going to be the most hell the world has ever known, there's also going to be the most heavenly power and defense and help and protection. It's going to be a time of great victory over the forces of Satan and tremendous triumph over the anti-Christ wicked. The Tribulation is not going to be a rampaging victory for the Devil. Supernatural, miraculous victories are going to be won over him and all of his powers. Don't think that God's people are all just going to be cowering, hunted victims. Many will be mightily empowered to fight and battle in the defense of the Gospel right up to the end, alongside all the forces of Heaven, aided by the curses and plagues that God unleashes on the wicked.

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Endtime Series Part 12 -- Sealing of God’s People and the Seven Trumpets of the Tribulation

* Rev 7:2  And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. (Revelation 7:2-3)

Revelation chapter 7 describes how God holds back His avenging angels till those who were His servants on Earth had received this seal. We don't know what form this seal will take, although it seems to be a spiritual rather than an actual physical mark. One thing we do know is that those who receive it are His people, and they are not on the receiving end of these plagues. It is the followers of the Antichrist who are on the receiving end, those who are trying to persecute and kill the ones who refuse to worship the Beast. For all the trouble, pain, and hurt they try to inflict on those who love Jesus, it sounds like the Antichrist and his followers come off the worst for it.

Revelation chapters 8-10 relay what will happen when the Seven Trumpets of the Tribulation are sounded in Heaven and seven mighty and fearsome angels begin to execute the judgments of God on the Antichrist's empire. (Please remember that these posts are just an over view of what is going to happen so I don’t go into detail about everything that is prophesied or an explanation as to what it might be, we will have to wait to understand what all these creatures and events are and the timing of them are. However we do know all these things will happen.)

In brief of the Seven Trumpets of the Tribulation:

* Then the first angel sounded: And hail and fire followed, mingled with blood, and they were thrown to the earth. And a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.
* Then the second angel sounded: And something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood. And a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed. Then the third angel sounded: And a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water. The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter.
* Then the fourth angel sounded: And a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them were darkened. A third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night.
* Then the fifth angel sounded: … Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. (Revelation 8:7 to 9:4)
* Then the sixth angel sounded: the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great River Euphrates." So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released to kill a third of mankind. Now the number of the army of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them. And thus I saw the horses in the vision: those who sat on them had breastplates of fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulfur yellow; and the heads of the horses were like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and brimstone. By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed—by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which came out of their mouths. For their power is in their mouth and in their tails; for their tails are like serpents, having heads; and with them they do harm. (Revelation 9:13-19)
* The seventh angel sounded: This is the fall of Babylon.

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Endtime Series Part 13 -- Last and final sign of Jesus’ Second Coming and Rapture

* For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. … And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. – Jesus (Mat 24:27, 31)

Here Jesus is telling us that the world’s darkest period of tribulation and horror will abruptly end with the dawning of the brightest day—the day Jesus Christ returns to gather His people to be with Him!

The world will be shocked by the awesome sights and sounds that will herald Jesus’ Second Coming. When the greatest sign of all is revealed, Jesus Himself coming in the clouds, supernaturally beaming God’s power and might around the world, those who have rejected Him and worshiped the Beast will realize how very wrong they’ve been. “Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him” (Revelation 1:7).

But for those of us who know and love the Lord, His return will bring us greater joy and deliverance and freedom than we have ever known! God’s people who have died since Jesus’ days on earth will be miraculously resurrected in new supernatural bodies, bursting out of their graves and ascending to meet Him in the air. Those of us still alive on earth will be instantly transformed with new bodies as well, and we’ll soar into the clouds to meet the Lord!

Marriage Supper

Jesus will snatch His people out of the reach of their anti-Christ persecutors and whisk them away to the grandest, most thrilling victory celebration that’s ever been held—an event known as the “Marriage Supper of the Lamb” in Heaven! (You can read about it here: Revelation 14:14–16; 19:6–9.)

Wrath of God and Armageddon

Meanwhile, the horrific plagues of the wrath of God will be poured out upon the Beast’s forces, a time so terrible that the Bible says, “In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them” (Revelation 9:6).

Jesus will then lead the superhuman hosts of Heaven as He and them return to earth to defeat and destroy the Beast and his wicked empire in the dreaded battle known as “Armageddon.” The name is derived from a hill in the valley of Jezreel, near Haifa, Israel, under which the ancient city of Megiddo is buried (the Hebrew word Armageddon means the height or mount of Megiddo). Although the armies of the Antichrist gather at Armageddon, it seems that the focal point of this climactic and horrendous battle will be Jerusalem (Zechariah 14:1–5). It will mark the end of man’s cruel rule on earth, as God Himself, through Jesus Christ, the King of kings and Lord of lords, and His heavenly forces, take over the world to rule and reign and run it the way it should have been run all along, if man had not disobeyed God and gone his own selfish way!

Millennium

And so begins a period known as the “Millennium,” a thousand years of peace and the building of paradise on earth (Revelation 19:11–21; 20:1–4).

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Endtime Series -- Conclusion

As these awesome final events of the Endtime begin to unfold, you don’t have to be in fear or confusion, wondering what’s going on. Although Jesus warned that in the very last days “men’s hearts would be failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth” (Luke 21:26), He also said that those who know and love Him could face these same events positively and victoriously.

He made it clear that as the final signs of the end came to pass, His return to rescue His people was that much closer: “Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption [deliverance] draws near” (Luke 21:28). We may not like everything that is happening, and some of it may look pretty bad, but at least we know the happy ending. In previous persecutions of God’s people throughout history, many of which were nearly as vicious as the ones to come in the Great Tribulation, the people of God as a whole have come through victoriously, stronger, and in many cases greatly multiplied in numbers.

Although the Great Tribulation is a time of great troubles, most of those troubles befall the Antichrist and his followers, not the followers of God. Jesus will do many miracles to empower and protect His people. “The people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits” (Daniel 11:32).

If you have faith in God and His Word, and you are living close to Him, then even if there’s war and turmoil, confusion and chaos on the outside, you can have peace on the inside—in your own heart—through the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ. You can prepare for the future—and for all eternity—by receiving Jesus as your Savior. He loves you, and will be with you and will guide you through whatever perilous times you may encounter.

The Bible tells us that “God is love” (1 John 4:8). He is the Spirit of Love, and He loves you and wants you to know and experience and revel in His love. But God is so great, so almighty, He is far beyond our finite human understanding. This is why He sent Jesus, His Son, to the world; to show us His love and to help us understand what He, God Himself, is like.

“For God so loved the world [you and me], that He gave His only begotten Son [Jesus], that whoever believes in Him should not perish [be separated from God’s love], but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). God loves you so much that He gave Jesus to die in your place, to take the punishment that you deserve for your wrongdoing, so that you can have His forgiveness and free gift of eternal heavenly life.

If you don’t yet know Jesus personally, you can receive Him and all the wonderful things He has to offer you right now. Even if you have questions and doubts about Him, He understands, and if you reach out to Him, He will make Himself real in your life. He says, “I stand at the door [of your heart] and knock. If you hear My voice and open the door, I will come into you” (Revelation 3:20).

Will you give Him a chance? He’s waiting for you. Just sincerely pray the following simple prayer:

* Dear Jesus, I ask You to come into my heart. Please forgive me for all the wrongs I’ve done, and give me Your gift of everlasting life. Help me to love You, and help me to share Your love and truth with others. Amen.

Jesus said, “I have come that you might have life, and that you might have it more abundantly” (John 10:10). Receiving Jesus not only guarantees you a brighter future, but a more fulfilled present. May His presence fill and bless your life in every way.