

Session 3 Political Signs of the Times Pertaining to Gentile Nations

I. REVIEW FROM PREVIOUS SESSIONS

¹ Concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. ² For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night (to the unprepared and/or to unbelievers)...⁴ But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. ⁵ You are all sons of light and sons of the day...⁶ Therefore ...let us watch... (1 Thes. 5:1-6)

- A. Paul taught that the Church should know the prophetic times and seasons on God's calendar that are related to the Lord's coming as a thief in the night to those who are unprepared. He said that we are sons of light and thus, are not to be overtaken or to be in the dark about Jesus' coming.
- B. When comparing Mt. 24 with 1 Thes. 5:2-3 we see **3 distinct prophetic time frames** related to the final 7-year period of this age. First, the beginning of birth pangs (Mt. 24:8). Second, the worldwide period of counterfeit peace and safety (*increased birth pangs*; 1 Thes. 5:2-3; Dan. 9:27). Third, the Great Tribulation (*heavy birth pangs*; Mt. 24:21; Jer. 30:5-7).
- C. My premise is that we are now living in the beginning stages of the generation in which the Lord will return. I do not know whether the final 7 prophetic years begins in 5 years or 50 (probably closer to 50 than 5). The Scripture commands us to know the signs of the times (Mt. 24:32-44).
- D. In my opinion, the beginning of birth pangs began in 1948, when Israel became a nation. In Scripture, Israel is the reference point in understanding God's purposes in redemptive history (past and future). Thus, Israel is THE primary timing indicator for discerning God's prophetic timetable for the End-Time drama. The entire End-Time scenario in Scripture is given in context to events related to Israel. Dan. 9:24-27 is the most significant prophecy about Israel and the nations in the End-Times. It speaks of Israel being in the Land, with a functioning Temple in Jerusalem and in covenant with the Antichrist.
- E. The most significant prophetic political events in the land of Israel to occur in the End-Times include: First, the re-birth of the nation of Israel (May, 15, 1948). Second, the re-capturing of Jerusalem during the Six Day War (June, 1967). They also include the following:
 - 1. Jerusalem inhabited by citizens of state of Israel and being surrounded by all nations and at the center of world controversy in the End-Times (Zech. 12:1-3; 14:1-3; Joel 3:2, 12; Zeph. 3:8; Lk. 21:20-24; Rev. 16:12-16).
 - 2. An international leader (Antichrist) rising up from obscurity to be in the unique position to establish a peace treaty with Israel and the Middle East that results in world peace (Dan. 9:27; 1 Thes. 5:2-3) and Israel's freedom to rebuild their Temple in Jerusalem which is then desecrated by the Antichrist (Dan. 9:27; Mt. 24:15; 2 Thes. 2:4).

II. POLITICAL EVENTS AMONG GENTILE NATIONS TO OCCUR IN THE END-TIMES

- A. The political and military developments among the Gentiles are key signs of the times. The stage must be set that leads up to the Armageddon Campaign. In other words, all the nations of the earth will be gathered in Israel to war against God. This military campaign will last for 3½ years (Rev. 11:2-3; 12:6, 14; 13:5; Dan. 7:25; 12:7) and end with its most decisive battle at Jerusalem.
- ² ***I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem... (Zech. 14:2)***
- B. Foundational to the prophetic political events among the Gentile nations in the End-Times is the establishment of the Antichrist as a worldwide leader (from obscurity) to confirm a peace treaty with Israel and the Middle East that results in world peace (Dan. 9:27; 1 Thes. 5:2-3). He will rule over a ten-nation confederation (in Europe/Middle East). This will fulfill Daniel's prophecy about God reviving the ancient Roman Empire in the End-Times. From these 10 nations arise a 3-nation coalition that the Antichrist (called the Little Horn) will destroy (Dan. 7:8, 20, 24). Watch for the consolidation of three powerful nations as the original base that will be uprooted.
- ⁷ ***Behold, a fourth beast (Roman Empire), dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong...it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling...it was different from all the beasts (world empires) that were before it, and it had ten horns (ten nation confederation). 8 I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a little one (Antichrist), coming up among them, before whom three (3 nation coalition) of the first horns were plucked out by the roots...20 The ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn (Antichrist) which came up, before which three fell...21 I was watching; and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them, 22 until the Ancient of Days (Father) came...the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom. 23 The fourth beast (revived Roman Empire) shall be a fourth kingdom on earth, which shall be different from all other kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth...24 The ten horns are ten kings who shall arise from this kingdom. Another (Antichrist) shall rise after them; he shall be different from the first ones, and shall subdue three kings. (Dan. 7:7-8 20-24)***
- C. The 10-nation confederation: Dan. 7:1-8 describes the historical foundation for the End-Time worldwide empire. Its foundation is built upon four successive worldwide empires from ancient times referred to as "beast empires." The beast empires are four empires in history (Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome). The fourth empire of Rome has two distinct stages (first, the ancient Roman Empire, then a future revived Roman empire). The people of the Roman Empire destroyed Jerusalem and its temple in 70 AD. The Roman Empire is the place from which the Antichrist (prince) will come.
- ²⁶ ***The people of the prince (Antichrist) who is to come shall destroy the city the sanctuary. (Dan. 9:26)***
- D. Ezekiel identifies 8 of the 10 nations in Ezek. 38:2-6. Ezekiel also uses the ancient names of 5 nations. Gog is the Antichrist, who rules from the land of Magog, Meshech and Tubal (Europe/Middle East). Gog is "rosh" or Hebrew for "chief prince" of Meshech and Tubal. The other nations are Persia (Iran), Ethiopia (Sudan and/or East Africa), Libya (North Africa), Gomer (north of the Caucasus Mountains in the area of Ukraine and western/central Russia) and Togarmah (eastern Turkey/Armenia) see Dan. 2:41-42; 7:7, 8, 10, 20, 24-25; 9:26-27; Ezek. 38:2—6; Rev. 12:3; 13:1; 17:3, 7, 12, 16.

- E. Watch for the emergence of a regional political leader (Antichrist) in the Middle East or Europe that has unusual diplomacy and who initially works with a 3-nation coalition. The Antichrist will start off as a regional leader referred to as the Little Horn (Dan. 7:8, 20-24; 8:9).
- ⁸ *...there was another horn, a little one (Antichrist), coming up among them...in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words.* (Dan. 7:8)
- F. Emergence of a one world government based in the European Union (revived Roman Empire) with a 10-nation confederation support system under the Antichrist's authority (Dan. 2:40-44; 7:7; Rev. 17:12). An international leader called the Antichrist (Rev. 13:1-10) and the False Prophet (Rev. 13:11-18) will lead this worldwide government that comes from 7 anti-Semitic empires referred to as 7 heads (Dan. 2:41-42; 7:7, 20, 24; Rev. 12:3; 13:1; 17:3, 7, 12, 16). This one-world government will lead the world into the Armageddon Campaign.
- G. This European Superstate (Magog confederation of Ezek. 38-39) will have 10 nations in a political covenant as the political, military, economic, religious power base of the Antichrist's worldwide kingdom. Three prophets spoke of this Superstate (Dan. 2; 7; Ezek. 38; Rev. 13; 17).
- H. Daniel prophesied (2500 years ago) that the Roman Empire would be revived in the generation that the Lord returns. Many have tried to make this happen. The most successful conquerors of Europe include **Julius Caesar** (100BC–44BC, last leader of the Roman Republic); **Augustus Caesar** (63BC-14AD, as the first Caesar of the Roman Empire); **Charlemagne** or **Charles the Great** (742-814, regarded as the Father of Europe, France and Germany, and founder of the Holy Roman Empire or ancient Western Roman Empire); **Sulayman** (Suleiman) **the Magnificent** (1494-1566, ruler of the Ottoman Empire over much of Europe); **Napoleon Bonaparte** (1761-1839); and **Adolf Hitler** (1889-1945).
- I. There is a growing globalization or a deliberate movement toward a one-world government i.e., the United Nations political identity of a new World Order with the push to minimize national boundaries and establish one world currency, military, political process, etc. There are 191 member nations in the UN directory (Feb. 2005). The terrorist crisis, economic dilemmas, and the increase of famine and disease are pressuring the leading nations of the world to do the only possible solution in human terms – worldwide cooperation. They see unifying as the best solution that brings common benefit to all nations.

III. WORLDWIDE COUNTERFEIT PEACE & SAFETY (1 THES. 5:2-3; DAN. 9:27)

² *For you yourselves know perfectly that **THE DAY OF THE LORD** so comes as a thief in the night.*
³ *For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then SUDDEN DESTRUCTION comes upon them, as labor pains (Great Tribulation) upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. (1 Thes. 5:2-3)*

- A. The claim of peace and safety will be heard throughout the nations just *prior* to a sudden "coming destruction" of the Great Tribulation in the time of the day of the Lord. There will appear to be a cessation of military conflict, civil strife, terrorism, and economic collapse, etc.

- B. Watch for a counterfeit peace and safety that will be easily noticed for a distinct time. When the prophetic Church proclaims this period as being a counterfeit time of peace under the emerging leadership of a demonized man (Antichrist), then we will appear absurd and even dangerous.
- C. The Antichrist will establish a covenant with Israel and Gentile nations. The Great Tribulation starts with the Antichrist establishing a peace treaty (designated for 7 years) that results in a counterfeit peace that lasts about 3½ years. In the middle of the week (7 year period), the Antichrist will break the treaty resulting in the termination of Israel’s activity in the Temple.
- ²⁷ ***He (Antichrist) shall confirm a covenant (peace treaty) with many (Israel and Middle East nations) for one week (7 year period); but in the middle of the week (after 3½ years) he shall bring an end to sacrifice (in the Jerusalem temple, thus breaking the covenant). (Dan. 9:27)***
1. The angel Gabriel spoke to the prophet Daniel about the final 7 years of this age immediately before the Messiah would come to rule the world from Jerusalem (Dan. 9:24-27).
 2. Gabriel spoke of these seven years as a week. This was a common expression in Israel. They thought of both a week of years (7 years) as well as a week of days (7 days). This final seven year period just before Jesus’ return is often referred to as “Daniel’s prophetic week” or “Daniel’s 70th week.”
- D. The world will wrongly assume that their problems are being solved by the Antichrist’s seemingly skillful leadership. The Antichrist will look successful as he appears to solve world problems. During this time, he will take control of many governments to fix their economy, etc.
- E. He will appear to have the answers to very complex unsolvable problems. For example, this pact will seem to settle the Middle East crisis, bringing Jews and Muslims together concerning Jerusalem and its holy sites. Mount Moriah (in Jerusalem), is holy to both Muslims (site of the Dome of the Rock as their third holiest shrine) and Jews (ancient site of Solomon’s Temple).
- F. The Antichrist’s credibility to establish his worldwide empire will come partially by being able to establish peace in the Middle East, which will be the most volatile place in history. He will seem as the man who ended the time of international conflict when the nations of the world rose up against each other in military conflicts (Mt. 24:7-8).
- ²⁵ ***Through his cunning he shall cause deceit to prosper under his rule; and he shall exalt himself in his heart. He shall destroy many in their prosperity. (Dan. 8:25)***
- ²¹ ***A vile person...shall come in peaceably, and seize the kingdom by intrigue. (Dan. 11:21)***
- G. No one knows when the last 7-year period of natural history begins. However, we do know how it starts and how it ends. It will start as a result of the Antichrist making a covenant with Israel and various Middle East nations.

IV. ANTI-SEMITISM AND AN INTERNATIONAL SIEGE AGAINST JERUSALEM

³ *I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone...all nations of the earth are gathered against it... (Zech. 12:3)*

² *For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; the city shall be taken... (Zech. 14:2)*

- A. Watch for anti-Semitism to grow rapidly worldwide (Joel 3:9; Zech. 12:3; 14:2). All the nations will be against Israel. Anti-Semitism will sweep the globe. Satan wants to exterminate the Jewish people so that a believing remnant cannot invite Jesus to rule Israel as her Messiah. (Rev. 12:13-17). An angel reveals Israel's great trouble in the End-Times to Daniel (Dan. 12:1-10). All nations will stand against Israel resulting in 2/3 of the Jews being killed and 1/3 getting saved.
- B. Ezekiel prophesied of Arab hostility toward Israel in the End-Times (Ezek. 35:1- 36:7). It will be great since they have significant oil resources to seduce the nations to stand against Israel. Islamic terrorism was prophesied by Jesus.
- C. Jesus prophesied that people would kill Messianic believers thinking that they were serving God. The initial fulfillment of this prophecy occurred in the first century at the hands of fellow Jews, like Saul of Tarsus, then again by the crusaders throughout the Middle Ages. The most dramatic fulfillment of this in the End-Times will be by some from militant Islam and rabbinic Judaism.
² *They will put you (Messianic believers) out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service. ³ These things they will do to you because they have not known the Father nor Me. (Jn. 16:2-3)*
- D. Israel's condition just before Jesus' Coming is described in Scripture as being in prison camps and assaulted by foreign armies. This is one of the most prominent features in Scripture about the Second Coming (Isa. 11:11-16; 27:12-13; 42:6-24; 49:5-25; 61:1-2; Jer. 30:3-24; 31:1-23; Ezek. 20:33-44; 39:25-29; Hos. 11:10-11; Amos 9:8-15; Joel 3:1-2; Zeph. 3:19-20; Zech 9:10-14).

V. OTHER POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS AMONG THE GENTILE NATIONS

- A. One-world religion referred to as Mystery Babylon (Rev. 17): Watch for the emergence of worldwide religious network with great economic power. Rev. 17, points to a worldwide movement of religious unity that requires the demise of the distinctives in the world's prominent religions. The political environment must be right to allow this to develop. Watch for the continual rise of false prophets, the occult, New Age, liberal "Christianity" with Muslims, Hindu, and Buddhists, etc. all with a commitment to moral tolerance that will pave the way for a one-world religion.
- B. This one-world religion will emerge that kills Christians who resist it (Rev. 13, 17-18). This religion will persecute the true Church because we will proclaim the time of peace and religious unity as the work of the devil.
⁶ *I saw the woman (mystery Babylon), drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus... (Rev. 17:6)*

- C. One-world economic system empowered by the mark of the Beast (Rev. 18): Watch for the emergence of worldwide economic system. Rev. 18, points to worldwide unity in economics that requires more great changes in global economics. The political environment must be right to allow this to develop.
- D. God's judgment on the Great Harlot Babylon (Rev. 17-18) is a judgment on a worldwide demonic economic and religious network based in the city of Babylon because it will seduce many to do evil and to persecute the saints. The city of Babylon to be located on the Euphrates River in Iraq (50 miles south of Baghdad) will be restored (Isa. 13-14; Jer. 50-51; Rev. 17-18). God will judge this city in two stages. First, this worldwide religious system of toleration and syncretism will fall in the middle of the 7 year period, at the hands of 10 kings who will burn it (Rev. 17:16). They will replace it with the Antichrist's strict religious system and re-establish it as one of the Antichrist's headquarters. Second, it will fall when Jesus returns (Rev. 18).
- E. The ancient city of Babylon will be rebuilt (Jer. 51-52; Isa. 13-14; Rev. 17-18). The city of Babylon will function in four ways: geographically, nationally, spiritually, and prophetically.
- F. Oil rich Islamic nations will come into an alliance with a global leader (Antichrist) against Israel.
- G. The kings of the East (Asian confederacy) will rise up in power and initially resist the Antichrist, but then will eventually join him in attacking Israel (Rev. 16:12-14; Dan. 11:44).
- H. After the time of counterfeit worldwide peace and safety, the Antichrist will conduct a series of battles around the world as described by the third seal (Rev. 6:5-6). War will intensify as Gentile nations gather together for a military build up in northern Israel near the hill of Megiddo for the 3½ year Armageddon Campaign (Rev. 16:16). Several key battles must occur that contribute to the Armageddon Campaign (Dan. 11:41-45). When the Antichrist's 10-nation coalition begins to gather to Megiddo, then the armies of Syria (north) and Egypt (south) will attack them in a preemptive strike. The conflicts in Dan. 11:40 may occur just before the Dan. 9:27 peace treaty or as a preemptive strike against the Antichrist's military build up in northern Israel.

⁴⁰ ***At the time of the end the king of the South (Egypt) shall attack him (Antichrist); and the king of the North (Syria) shall come against him like a whirlwind... (Dan. 11:40)***

VI. SUMMARY: THESE TRENDS MUST ALL HAPPEN IN THE SAME GENERATION

- A. **Watch for:** the stage to be set that leads up to the Armageddon Campaign. All the nations of the earth will be gathered in Israel to war against God.
- B. **Watch for:** the emergence of a European Superstate (in Europe/Middle East) in the area of the ancient Roman Empire that leads to a one world government with a 10-nation confederation.
- C. **Watch for:** the rise of a 3-nation coalition as the original base of this Superstate.

- D. **Watch for:** for one man to rise up from obscurity (as a regional political leader) with unusual diplomacy who initially works with a 3-nation coalition. He then will lead a ten-nation confederation (Superstate) and will confirm a peace treaty with Israel and the Middle East that results in a counterfeit and temporary world peace.
- E. **Watch for:** the Antichrist to destroy the 3-nations that were the original base of the Superstate.
- F. **Watch for:** growing globalization or a deliberate movement toward a one-world government.
- G. **Watch for:** a counterfeit peace and safety that will be easily noticed for a distinct time as the world wrongly assumes that their problems are being solved by unusual, skillful leadership.
- H. **Watch for:** anti-Semitism to grow rapidly on a worldwide scale.
- I. **Watch for:** trends that will lead to an international siege against Jerusalem, as all nations stand against Israel.
- J. **Watch for:** increased Arab hostility toward Israel (Ezek. 35:1- 36:7).
- K. **Watch for:** an increase in the development of prison camps for religious and political prisoners.
- L. **Watch for:** the emergence of worldwide religious network with great economic power.
- M. **Watch for:** a one-world religious system that legalizes killing Christians who resist it.
- N. **Watch for:** the emergence of a worldwide economic system.
- O. **Watch for:** God's judgment on the Great Harlot Babylon.
- P. **Watch for:** the rebuilding of the city of Babylon located on the Euphrates River in Iraq
- Q. **Watch for:** the emergence of oil rich Islamic nations in alliance with a global leader (Antichrist).
- R. **Watch for:** the rise of the kings of the East (Asian confederacy) that will initially resist the Antichrist, but then will eventually join him in attacking Israel.
- S. **Watch for:** a series of battles around the world after the worldwide peace and safety.

VII. POLITICAL SITUATION: TWO NEW FACTORS THAT INCREASE DANGER

- A. The two factors are the sudden emergence of Iran’s terrorist President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and the unexpected victory of Hamas’ (terrorist) political party in the Palestinian parliament.
- B. In October 2005, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the president of Iran made a radical public call for the annihilation of Israel.” He continued by proclaiming that with the help of God Almighty, that Islam would soon experience a world without America and Zionism. He assured them that a world without America and Israel is both possible and feasible.
- C. Iran is a central power base for Islamic religion and terror. Iran has recently announced to the world that they are joining the nuclear club. President Ahmadinejad announced that Iran will share its nuclear power with the Islamic world in order to make Islam a significant military force.
- D. Iran’s president has openly announced that they will use the full degree of violence necessary to reach Islam's highest goal of winning in their holy war against the United States (big Satan) and Israel (small Satan).
 - 1. Think of the mass destruction of nuclear weapons striking (at the same hour) several cities like Jerusalem, Wash., DC, New York City, London and Frankfurt, etc. In one day, financial crisis would sweep across the earth shaking the nations.
 - 2. Currently, Iran provides inspiration, finances and leadership to Hamas (in Gaza) and to Hezbollah (in Lebanon) including having the support of Osama bin Laden’s Al-Qaeda terrorist organization.
- E. Israel will feel the pressure to make a preemptive strike to stop Iran's nuclear production. A vast multi-national Islamic army would inevitably attack Israel.
- F. This will cause intense international disdain and sanctions against Israel. What will be the response of Islamic nations if America and Israel bomb Iran's nuclear production sites? Islamic nations will partner with Russia in a military coalition to attack Israel.
- G. The second factor that increases danger to world peace is the sudden emergence of the ***Hamas party*** as the majority party in the Palestinian parliament. The Palestinian Authority leads the civil infrastructure (police, schools, welfare) for Muslims in Israel and the occupied territories.
- H. On January 25, 2006, the radical Islamic party, Hamas, shocked everyone by winning a landslide election for the seats in the Palestinian parliament. They won 76 out of the 132 seats. This was a sudden reversal for Fatah’s majority in the parliament (receiving only 43 seats).

- I. The two main parties in the Palestinian parliament are **Fatah** (Arafat's secular and nationalistic party) and **Hamas** (party of terrorists with “religious” zeal). Hamas and Fatah are both Islamic and want to see Israel destroyed. However, they have very different approaches. Hamas formally began in 1987. Hamas is an acronym in Arabic for "Harakat Al-Muqawama Al-Islamia" (Islamic Resistance Movement), and the word means courage (bravery) and some translate it as zeal.
1. Fatah is heavily criticized among fellow Palestinians for its corruption, greed, and violence. They have shown themselves as open to working with Israel.
 2. Hamas boldly promotes the use of terrorism to destroy Israel. They do not recognize Israel's right to even exist. Hamas gains its popular support by being more involved in humanitarian aid in giving help to children, schools, the poor, and the unemployed.
- J. Hamas is openly committed to destroying Israel and is under the influence of Iran who gives them inspiration, financial aid and leadership as it does to Hezbollah in Lebanon. Hamas plans to focus on using the media and education to fill the land with Muslim propaganda against Israel.
- K. Hamas desires to be like Iran in establishing Sharia law (Islamic religious law) as the law of the future state of Palestine. This would result in making all other religions illegal with the threat of prison as well as enforcing Islam to be taught in every learning institution from childhood throughout one's university education. Sharia law demands that all women wear Islamic clothing and coverings. In other words, it would be comparable to a complete merger of the Church and the State in the USA.
- L. There are about 10 million people in Israel proper plus the occupied territories with Arabs and Jews split about 50/50. There are about 6.3 million people in Israel proper plus 3.7 million in the occupied territories. Approximately 80% of the people in Israel proper are Jewish, about 18% are Arabs (1.2 million) and 2% are various.
- M. The radical Islamic leaders in the Middle East (including Hamas, Hezbollah, al-Qaida network) have determined to remove the moderate Muslims in the region around Israel and to replace them with a coalition of radical Islamic leaders. This would result in Israel being surrounded with a “ring of fire” (Ps. 83). They want to assassinate the **Prime Minister of Jordan** Marouf al-Bakhit and King Abdullah II **who appointed him** (Nov. 2005) as well as the **President of Egypt** Mohammed Hosni Mubarak (mu-bar-ak) who has reigned for nearly 25 years taking over after the assassination of President Anwar Sadat (Oct, 1981). He is the longest-serving leader in Egypt (since Mohammad Ali in the 19th century), and is the longest-serving ruler among the Arab countries.

- N. They also want to take down the **House of Saud** (Royal Family of Saudi Arabia) because it is seen as the pipeline to the West. Since it is a dynasty, it is not sufficient to just assassinate the head person, but they must take the entire dynasty down. The Royal Family has 25,000 members, of whom 200 are princes with influence. The Saudis have purchased modern weapons-systems from the West and have a military force of 150,000. The House of Saud began in 1744. Saudi Arabia was established in 1932. Saudi Arabia possesses 25% of the world's proven petroleum reserves and is the largest exporter of petroleum. The King and Prime Minister is **King Abdullah bin Abd al-Aziz Al Saud** (since Aug, 2005) and the heir apparent is **Crown Prince Sultan bin Abd al-Aziz Al Saud**. The head of the House of Saud is the King of Saudi Arabia. He is an absolute monarch who serves as Head of State and Monarch of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.