



Announcements

APC Central : Baby Dedication

Raja and Annie, baby Eden

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**The End Time Series (Part-1)**

**The Bible - A Prophetic Book. The Middle East and Other regions in Bible Prophecy**

Eschatology is a study of end time events. The word "eschatology" is derived from the Greek word "eschatos" meaning "last things". This book is a study on what the Bible says about the end time events, coming world events and beyond.

We look around the world today and see so much happening:

- Political upheavals
- Fear and unrest due to terrorism, racial intolerance
- Scientific and technological advances with its opportunities as well as challenges
- Environmental and climate changes and the challenges these present
- Social challenges
- Religious and spiritual challenges

Why should we as believers discover what the Bible has to say about the End Times?  
Why is this subject important?

*#1, Because God has revealed to us in His Word, truth about creation, redemption, life, death, eternity and things to come. These are given to us to discover and understand. He invites us to do so.*

**Revelation 1:1-3**

**1** The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John,  
**2** who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw.  
**3** Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.

*#2, Because God has revealed signs of the times that we should be watchful about, so that we can order our lives well, and live honorably before God and man.*

**Romans 13:11-14**

**11** And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.

**12** The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.



**13 Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy.**

**14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.**

*#3, Because God wants us to be a people of hope as we look ahead to that which will be revealed, and look past the things of this life.*

We walk with this precious hope through life.

**1 John 3:2-3**

**2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.**

**3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.**

*#4, Because we affirm that God is unfolding His glorious plan, and will redeem all things back to Himself reversing the Fall and works of sin, satan and death. Christ is triumphant over all and everything will be put under His feet.*

**1 Corinthians 15:24-26**

**24 Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power.**

**25 For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet.**

**26 The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.**

*#5, Because of such hope we are active in fulfilling our assignment here on earth testifying to His grace through the life we live and serving Him actively that the Gospel will be proclaimed to the ends of the earth.*

**2 Corinthians 5:10-11**

**10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.**

**11 Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.**

*#6, Prophecy has to be preached so that people can come to faith in Christ*

The Bible also indicates that mysteries that were once kept secret have now been made known through the Gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ and the prophetic Scriptures that have been given to us. This is for all nations so that people can come to faith in Christ.

**Romans 16:25-27**



25 Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began  
26 but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith—  
27 to God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.

## **Our Approach In Studying The End Times**

### *#1, We take things in their literal sense first, then the figurative*

We realize that in many Biblical passages dealing with the End Times there are a lot of figurative elements and imagery. Our approach towards Scripture is to always take a passage in its literal sense unless there is a good reason for doing otherwise. For example, the figurative sense is intended if the literal would involve an impossibility or an absurdity. Next, in order to interpret the figurative we start with insights and explanation given in the immediate context. Thereafter, if needed we use meanings assigned to similar figures in the rest of Scripture.

### *#2, We do not engage in speculation or sensationalism*

While God has revealed things about the End Times in Scripture, we also know that there is much that is not revealed.

#### **Matthew 24:36**

**But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.**

#### **Deuteronomy 29:29**

**The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.**

We believe that God holds certain details of the End Times unknown, in order to encourage us to be occupied with the task at hand and yet live in a constant state of readiness and watchfulness. Hence we do not attempt to engage in speculations, predictions, hype or sensationalism when speaking of the End Times.

### *#3, Openness Yet Uncompromising*

We are aware of various positions in interpreting Biblical prophecy: dispensational premillennialism, historical premillennialism, postmillennialism, amillennialism. Premillennialists further differ as to pretrib, midtrib, posttrib events. See (Copeland, 2007) for a discussion of these positions. While we give room for variations in eschatological positions, we also understand that there are key elements that cannot be compromised. These include the reality of God's Kingdom, His dealings with the nation of Israel, the Church, His covenant of grace, one covenant people, one hope, one faith, one Lord, one Spirit, the return of Christ, the resurrection from the dead, the judgment of all people, new heavens and new earth. Our focus will always be on the Lord Jesus,



His completed work on the Cross, the need to believe in Him as Savior and the Great Commission which we are to be actively engaged in. We interpret Bible prophecy to the best we know how, understand and be open to possible variations and hold on uncompromisingly to the fact that Christ is Savior and Lord. We must endeavor to follow end time events as they transpire and relate them as applicable to end time Bible prophecy.



## THE BIBLE - A PROPHETIC BOOK

The Bible claims for itself to be an inspired : "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God,.." (2 Timothy 3:16). The authors of the Bible wrote of things that they themselves did not understand and things well before their time, as they were inspired by the Spirit of God.

### **1 Peter 1:10-12**

**10** Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you,

**11** searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.

**12** To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things which angels desire to look into.

### **2 Peter 1:20-21**

**20** knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation,

**21** for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

One of the key indicators of divine inspiration of Scripture is the details, accuracy and fulfillment of prophecy – events that were foretold, sometimes hundreds or even thousands of years in advance. Bible prophecy is history written in advance! Fulfilled Bible prophecy is a evidence of its authenticity.

Approximately 2,500 prophecies appear in the pages of the Bible, about 2,000 of which already have been fulfilled to the letter—no errors. see (Ross, 2003). The Bible contains 10,385 verses predicting the return of the Lord. We will consider a few Bible prophecies to show their accuracy and strength.

### ***Key Historical Events That Were Foretold***

A short list of key historical events that were foretold and then literally fulfilled as foretold in Scripture.

Dr. Hugh Ross (Ross, 2003), an astronomer, with a degree in Physics and a PhD in astronomy, has calculated the probability of these prophecies being fulfilled. All prophecies mentioned below are as determined by Dr. Ross.



## **1, Egyptian Slavery**

God spoke to Abraham, his people would be slaves for 400 years

**Genesis 15:13,14**

**13** Then He said to Abram: "Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years.

**14** And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions.

## **2, Babylonian Captivity (prophesied 80 years in advance)**

About 80 years before the Jews were taken into exile Jeremiah prophesied about Israel being overthrown and the people taken into Babylonian captivity for 70 years.

**Jeremiah 25:11** And this whole land shall be a desolation and an astonishment, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.

**Jeremiah 29:10** For thus says the LORD: After seventy years are completed at Babylon, I will visit you and perform My good word toward you, and cause you to return to this place.

## **3, Cyrus of Persia, commanding Israel's Return**

About 150 years before Cyrus king of Persia was born, Isaiah made this prophecy, and about 180 years before Cyrus performed any of these feats (and he did, eventually, perform them all), and 80 years before the Jews were taken into exile.  
(Probability of chance fulfillment = 1 in 10<sup>15</sup>)

**Isaiah 44:28**

Who says of Cyrus, 'He is My shepherd, And he shall perform all My pleasure, Saying to Jerusalem, "You shall be built," And to the temple, "Your foundation shall be laid." '

**Isaiah 45:1**

"Thus says the LORD to His anointed, To Cyrus, whose right hand I have held— To subdue nations before him And loose the armor of kings, To open before him the double doors, So that the gates will not be shut:

**Ezra 1:1,2**

**1** Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and also put it in writing, saying,

**2** Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth the LORD God of heaven has given me. And He has commanded me to build Him a house at Jerusalem which is in Judah. (See also Ezra 5:13,14)



#### 4, 483 Years for Christ's Coming

Daniel prophesied that after 483 years (69 weeks, each week = 7 years) from the time of the issuing of the decree by Cyrus to rebuild Jerusalem the Messiah would come, be rejected and die (Daniel 9:24-26). The happened precisely to the day. Jesus came and was rejected and crucified.

**Daniel 9:25,26**

**25 "Know therefore and understand, That from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks (*total of 69 weeks*); The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times.**

**26 "And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself;...**

The decree regarding the restoration of Jerusalem was issued by Persia's King Artaxerxes to the Hebrew priest Ezra in 458 BC, 483 years later the ministry of Jesus Christ began in Galilee. (Remember that due to calendar changes, the date for the start of Christ's ministry is set by most historians at about AD 26. Also note that from 1 BC to AD 1 is just one year.) Jesus' crucifixion occurred only a few years later, and about four decades later, in AD 70 came the destruction of Jerusalem by Titus. (Probability of chance fulfillment = 1 in  $10^5$ .)

#### 5, Prophecies concerning Christ

Some prophecies concerning Christ which were fulfilled literally:

- a) He would be the seed of a woman (Genesis 3:15)
- b) He would come through the lineage of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Genesis 12:3,17-19)
- c) He would be a descendant of Judah (Genesis 49:10)
- d) He would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2). In approximately 700 BC, the prophet Micah named the tiny village of Bethlehem as the birthplace of Israel's Messiah (Micah 5:2). The fulfillment of this prophecy in the birth of Christ is one of the most widely known and widely celebrated facts in history. (Probability of chance fulfillment = 1 in  $10^5$ )
- e) He would be born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14)
- f) He would be in Egypt for some time (Hosea 11:1)
- g) He would grow up in Nazareth and be called a Nazarene (Matthew 22:14-16)



- h) He would be betrayed by His close friend (Psalm 41:9)
- i) He would be betrayed for thirty pieces of silver and that this money would be used to buy a burial ground (Zechariah 11:12-13, Matthew 27:3-10). Prophesied about 500 years beforehand. (Probability of chance fulfillment = 1 in  $10^{11}$ )
- j) He would be crucified (Psalm 22:14-16, Isaiah 53)
- k) He would suffer no broken bones at His crucifixion (Psalm 34:30). (Probability of chance fulfillment = 1 in  $10^{13}$ )
- l) He would observe men casting lots for His clothing (Psalm 34:20)
- m) He would live again (Psalm 16:10)

## **6, Destruction of the Temple (foretold 40 years in advance)**

### **Matthew 24:2**

**And Jesus said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down."**

About 40 years later, in AD 70, Jerusalem and the Temple was destroyed by Titus the Roman General.

## **7, Dispersion and re-gathering of Israel (foretold 3,500 years in advance)**

Moses foretold (with some additions by Jeremiah and Jesus) that the ancient Jewish nation would be conquered twice and that the people would be carried off as slaves each time. The second the Jews would be taken captive to Egypt in ships, sold or sent as slaves to all parts of the world. Both of these predictions were fulfilled to the letter, the first in 607 BC (by the Babylonians) and the second in AD 70 (by the Romans). The prophecies stated that the Jews would remain scattered throughout the entire world for many generations, without being assimilated, and that the Jews would one day return to the land of Palestine to re-establish for a second time their nation (Deuteronomy 29; Isaiah 11:11-13; Jeremiah 25:11; Hosea 3:4-5 and Luke 21:23-24). This prophetic statement spans 3,500 years of history and each of it has been literally fulfilled, with Israel being established in 1948. (Probability of chance fulfillment = 1 in  $10^{20}$ )

Like these, there are literally hundreds of other Bible prophecies.





Bible prophecy is accurate and reliable.

## ***Are We Living In The End Times?***

Bible prophecy speaks of the **latter times** and **latter years**, the **last day and latter days**, the **end of time** and the **time of the end** -

*Are we the end-time generation?*

**Luke 21:32**

**"Verily I say unto you, this generation shall not pass away till all be fulfilled"**

The Bible presents to us the signs of the End Times. There are about 500 fulfilled End Time prophecies making it clear that the return of the Lord is near.

Jesus commanded us to watch for His return and desire it. This is the generation that could see the return of the Lord, and it is crucial we be prepared.

**Matthew 24:1-51 and Luke 21:5-36** are parallel passages where the Lord Jesus describes the signs of the end times. This is often referred to as "the Olivet prophecy" spoken from the Mount of Olives. We present this chapter here for your consideration. We will look at these passages in detail in later chapters.

### **Matthew 24**

- 1 Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple.**
- 2 And Jesus said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down."**
- 3 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?"**
- 4 And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you.**
- 5 For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many.**
- 6 And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.**
- 7 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.**
- 8 All these are the beginning of sorrows.**
- 9 "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake.**
- 10 And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another.**
- 11 Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.**
- 12 And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.**
- 13 But he who endures to the end shall be saved.**
- 14 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.**



15 "Therefore when you see the 'ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand),  
16 "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.  
17 Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house.  
18 And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes.  
19 But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days!  
20 And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath.  
21 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.  
22 And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.  
23 "Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There!' do not believe it.  
24 For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.  
25 See, I have told you beforehand.  
26 "Therefore if they say to you, 'Look, He is in the desert!' do not go out; or 'Look, He is in the inner rooms!' do not believe it.  
27 For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.  
28 For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together.  
29 "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.  
30 Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.  
31 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.  
32 "Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near.  
33 So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors!  
34 Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place.  
35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.  
36 "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.  
37 But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.  
38 For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark,  
39 and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.  
40 Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left.  
41 Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left.  
42 Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.  
43 But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into.  
44 Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.  
45 "Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season?  
46 Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing.  
47 Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods.  
48 But if that evil servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,'  
49 and begins to beat his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards,



50 the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him and at an hour that he is not aware of,  
51 and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Some of the signs He gave refer to events that would be unique, occurring at a point in time.

Several of the signs He mentioned would be periodic repetition of trends and devastating events. These would recur over time but intensify (increase in magnitude and frequency) as we approach His second coming.

For example, the "many antichrists" who have come are only precursors to "the Antichrist" who is coming:

**1 John 2:18**

**Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.**

In Matthew 24:2, Jesus' was referring prophetically to the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70.

Jesus Christ Himself talked of a future time so horrendous: "'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. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved;..'" (Matthew 24:21-22). Increasingly cataclysmic events will occur before God's direct intervention in human affairs.

Jesus made it clear that no one could know the exact time of His return (Matthew 24:36) but we can watch for the signs as we approach toward the end.

### ***Biblical Terminology on the End Times***

It is useful to understand the usage of various terminology (phrases) used in Scripture in reference to the End Times.

**"last days"** (Genesis 49:1, Acts 2:17, 2 Timothy 3:1, Hebrews 1:2, James 5:3, 2 Peter 3:3)

**"the time of the end"** (Daniel 8:17, Daniel 11:35, Daniel 11:40, Daniel 12:4, Daniel 12:9)



**"the latter days"** (Numbers 24:14, Deuteronomy 4:30, Deuteronomy 31:29, Job 42:12, Proverbs 19:20, Isaiah 2:2, Jeremiah 23:20, Jeremiah 30:24, Jeremiah 48:47, Jeremiah 49:39, Ezekiel 38:16, Daniel 2:28, Daniel 10:14, Hosea 3:5, Micah 4:1)

**"day of the Lord"** (Isaiah 2:12, Isaiah 13:6,9, Isaiah 34:8, Isaiah 58:13, Jeremiah 46:10, Lamentations 2:22, Ezekiel 13:5, Ezekiel 30:3, Joel 1:15, Joel 2:1, Joel 2:11, Joel 2:31, Joel 3:14, Amos 5:18, Amos 5:20, Obadiah 1:15, Zephaniah 1:7,8,14,18, Zephaniah 2:2-3, Zechariah 14:1, Malachi 4:5, Acts 2:20, 1 Corinthians 5:5, 2 Corinthians 1:14, 1 Thessalonians 5:2, 2 Peter 3:10)

**"day of wrath"** (Job 21:30, Proverbs 11:4, Zephaniah 1:15, Romans 2:5)

**"last day"** (Nehemiah 8:18, John 6:39, John 6:40, John 6:44, John 6:54, John 7:37, John 11:24, John 12:48)

**"end of the age"** (Matthew 13:39, Matthew 13:49, Matthew 24:3, Matthew 28:20)

**"ends of the ages"** (1 Corinthians 10:11)

**"end of the ages"** (Hebrews 9:26)

**"last hour"** (1 John 2:18)

**"coming of the Lord"** (1 Thessalonians 4:15, James 5:7-8)

**"appearing"** (1 Timothy 6:14, 2 Timothy 1:10, 2 Timothy 4:1, 2 Timothy 4:8, Titus 2:13)

**"revelation of Jesus Christ"** (Galatians 1:12, 1 Peter 1:7, 1 Peter 1:13, Revelation 1:1)

**"when He appears"** (Malachi 3:2, 1 John 2:28)

**"His coming"** (1 Samuel 16:4, Malachi 3:2, Matthew 24:48, Luke 12:45, Acts 13:24, 1 Corinthians 15:23, 2 Corinthians 7:7, 1 Thessalonians 2:19, 2 Thessalonians 2:8, 2 Peter 3:4, 1 John 2:28)

We learn that these phrases are used to refer to any period of time in the future. In some cases these are used to refer to a particular day/event in the future while in other cases they may refer to an entire period of time, example, the period of time starting with the first coming of Christ. Hence, these phrases have to be understood within the context in which they are used. For instance the "last days" or the "ends of the age"



began in the New Testament and is ongoing, now over a period of about two thousand years.

What we do see is that there will definitely come a time at the end when there will be the return of the Lord Jesus Christ, the resurrection of the dead, the judgment of all, and a new heavens and a new earth.

**2 Peter 3:8**

**But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.**

The “last days” could end today, or after another "day" (another thousand years from now), if that is what God has planned. Our responsibility is to observe carefully the signs of the times and be prepared for His return at all times.



## THE MIDDLE-EAST AND OTHER REGIONS IN BIBLE PROPHECY

We now cover geographical regions that are mentioned in end time Bible prophecy. While much of the focus is on the Middle-East, Israel and its neighbors, we also briefly look at the countries within the former Roman Empire as well as Russia.

### *The Middle East*

As we are aware much of Scripture and its records of God's dealings with people is located around the Middle East. The Garden of Eden was located somewhere between the rivers Tigris and Euphrates and (Genesis 2:8-14)



Abraham and his descendants were given a land (region) that was in this region.



Daniel prophesied (Daniel 2:31-33) the rise of the three empires following the Babylonian empire: that of the Medo-Persian empire that began with king Cyrus, followed by the Greco-Macedonian Empire established by Alexander the Great, and then the Roman empire. In Daniel 7, Daniel once again describes these four empires were represented by four beasts: a lion (Babylonian Empire), a bear (Medo-Persian Empire), a leopard (Greco-Macedonian Empire) and a fourth beast described as “terrible” and unlike the other three, which was the powerful Roman Empire (Daniel 7:1-7). All of them operated in and around the Middle East.

Much of what the Bible foretells about coming world events center around Israel and what will take place in this region.

### ***Islam and the Middle East***

Subsequent to the Roman Empire, the Islamic Empire rose to power and dominated the Middle East for several centuries. Islam spread throughout the Middle East, North Africa and Southern Asia in two great waves of expansion, first in the seventh century and again in the 12th and later centuries.

Today 57 countries are in the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC). Of these, 22 of them are Arab nations, many of which are populated with descendants of Ishmael, another 35 nations also are either exclusively or significantly Islamic. These 22 Arab nations spread across the Middle East and North Africa. In comparison, Israel is a tiny piece of land snuggled amongst these Arab nations and yet the hot-bed of conflict and a center of the world's attention.





The Arab countries hold the majority of the world's known reserves of oil—the lifeblood of the global economy. Hence the Middle East remains at the forefront of global affairs.

Many of the nations in the Middle East Israel (1948), Egypt (1922), Iraq (1932) and Syria (1945) did not exist about a century ago.

Israel, with Jerusalem as its capital, is bordered by Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, West Bank, Egypt etc. On **May 14, 1948**, the State of Israel was founded by the efforts of the World Zionist Organization. Israeli independence in 1948 was marked by massive migration of Jews from both Europe and the Muslim countries to Israel, and of Arabs from Israel, followed by the extensive Arab–Israeli conflict. About 42% of the world's Jews live in Israel today, the largest Jewish community in the world. Since inception Israel has been in bitter conflict with the neighboring Arab nations. The Palestinians of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip have engaged in violent conflict for many decades now.

The formation of these nations is important in order to fulfill End Time Bible prophecy, as we shall see in later chapters.

There are several other details in Bible prophecy concerning the Middle East that we will consider later.

### ***European Union and The Former Roman Empire***





Both Daniel and the apostle John in the book of Revelation describe the rise of another world power, emerging from what was the region occupied by the Roman Empire.



Countries that were definitely part of the Roman Empire at one point:  
 Portugal, Spain, Andorra, United Kingdom, France, Monaco, Luxembourg, Belgium, Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Italy, San Marino, Vatican City, Malta, Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Albania, Greece, FYR Macedonia, Romania, Bulgaria, Turkey, Armenia, Syria, Iraq, Cyprus, Lebanon, Jordan, Israel, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco

Countries that may have not necessarily been part of the Roman Empire but were in some way influenced by the Roman Empire:  
 Czech Republic, Slovakia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Palestinian territories





**Member states of the European Union (not accounting for Brexit)**

As we will see in our later studies, Daniel describes 10 rulers (or leaders of nations) from this region (The former Roman Empire), who receive power “for one hour”—symbolic of a short time—from whom emerges a single ruler (leader) who is also called “the beast” (Daniel 7:19-28; Revelation 17:12-13). “These will make war with the Lamb [the returning Jesus Christ], and the Lamb will overcome them ...” (Revelation 17:14). This coming together of these 10 nations under the leadership of “the beast” leads right into the return of Jesus Christ to earth.

Hence what is happening with the European Union (and other nations formerly part of the Roman Empire) along with the deepening crisis in the Middle East is of much interest. It is very likely that there will be 10 key players eventually emerging, who will combine to form a powerful military force involving themselves in the Middle-East.

## ***Russia***

Interestingly Russia is also referenced in End Time Bible prophecy in Ezekiel 38:1-6,15,16, in the final war called Armageddon.



Russia will invade Israel from the north (Ezek 38:15, 16) at a time of peace, indicating some sort of a world peace treaty, or disarmament program, is in effect. Allies of Russia coming against Israel will be Persia (Iran and Iraq), Ethiopia, Libya, Gomer (parts of Eastern Germany and Slovakia), Togarmah (Turkey), and Egypt. God Himself will intervene and the invaders of Israel will be defeated. This will be a brief but destructive war in history. Only a sixth of the fighting forces will be left after the battle (about 85% killed). Russia will be driven back to Siberia (Ezekiel 39:2-5, Joel 2:20). Russia will strengthen her forces and come back on the offensive. This continues, until all nations become involved and are gathered together against Israel at Jerusalem, leading up to the battle of Armageddon (Zechariah 14, Revelation 16:16).

Hence, Russia's involvement on the global political scene must also be observed closely.

**NOTE:**

*July 1, 2016 BB News*

*The Quartet - made up of the US, UN, EU and Russia and formed in 2002 - called on both sides to take positive action and said only direct bilateral negotiations could end the conflict. The last round of direct talks between Israel and the Palestinians came to an end amid acrimony in April 2014.*

### ***China And The Kings From The East***

Armageddon unfolds as 200 million troops led by kings from the East advance against Israel (Revelation 9:14-18, Revelation 16:12-16). This in all likelihood points to China. China and Russia lead in the final war, Armageddon (Revelation 16:16). The first invasion is headed by Russia, and its allies, aligned with an Islamic group of nations, one being Iran (Ezekiel 38:1- 2,5,8,16). The second invasion is headed up by China and the leftover armies of Russia and Islam (Daniel 11:44; Revelation 16:12; and Revelation 9:14-18). The third and final invasion is when all nations converge upon Jerusalem and Christ returns to end the battle and set up His kingdom in Jerusalem — Zechariah 14:2,4; Luke 1:32-33.)

### ***The Temple Mount***

### ***Megiddo and the Valley of Jezreel***

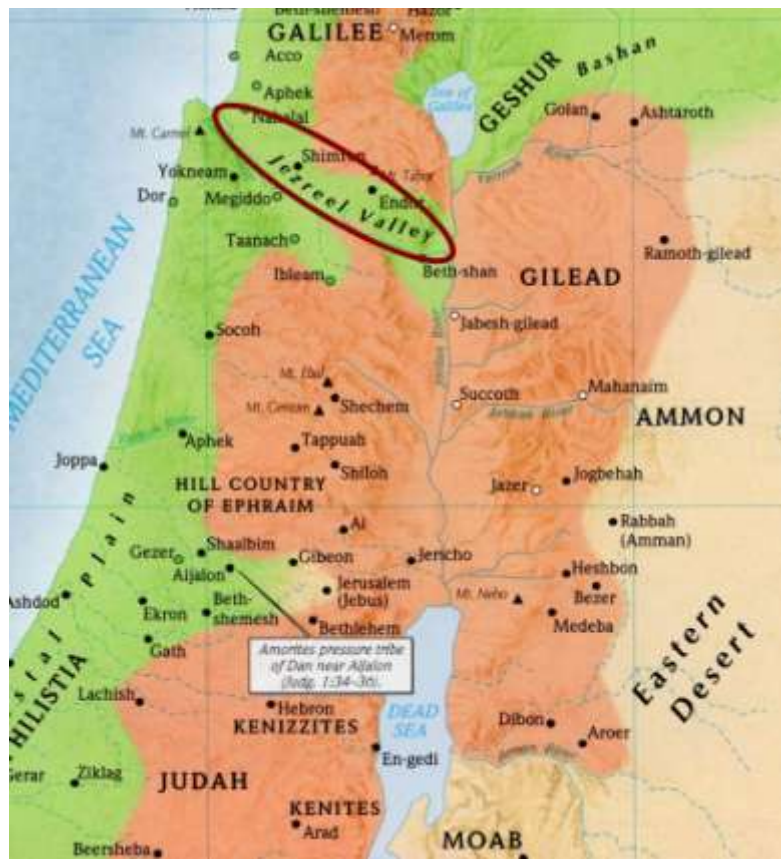


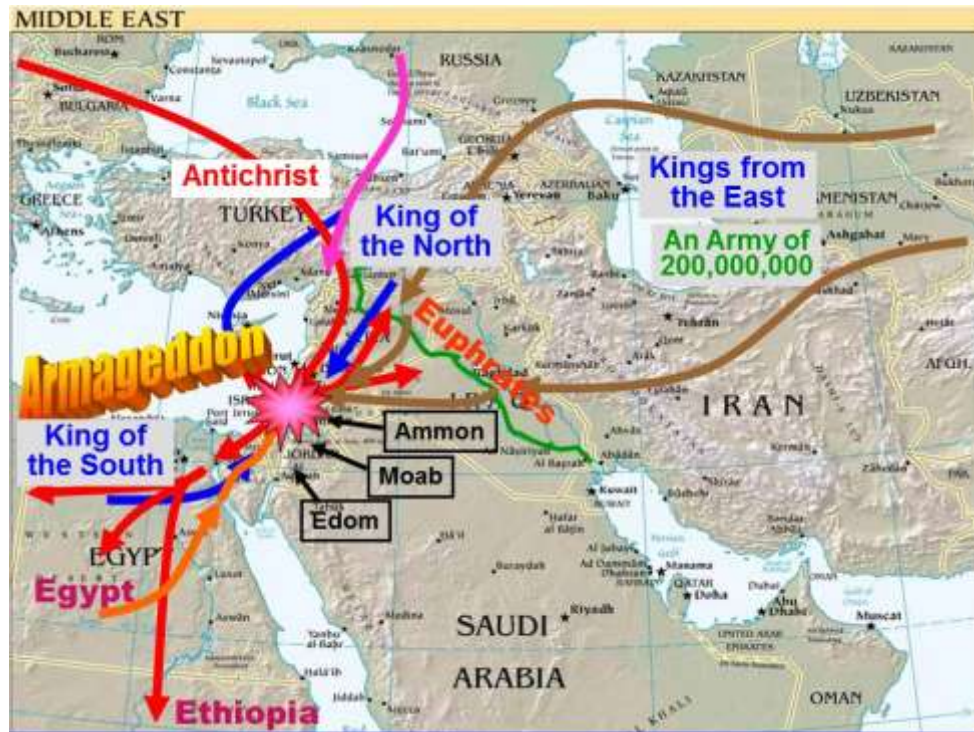


During the past 4,000 years, at least 34 bloody conflicts have been fought at Megiddo and the adjacent Valley of Jezreel, including Napoleon and the British General Allenby. General Allenby fought his battle with the Ottoman Turks in the Battle of Megiddo (1918) in this region.

The ancient fortress of Megiddo stands on Tell el-Mutesellim (Tel Megiddo), overlooking the Plain of Armageddon or of Megiddo. This plain, also known as the Plain of Esdraelon (the Jezreel Valley) is still strategically important as it links the Jordan Valley and the Plain of Sharon 40 miles (64 km).

Just before Jesus returns to earth a second time, the kingdoms of the North and the South will begin making their preparations for the battle of Armageddon. God will then cause the Euphrates river to dry up so that the armies of the world can gather together (along with the beast and false prophet) to fight Jesus coming directly from heaven (Revelation 16:12-16) at the Jezreel valley. This will be the final war mankind will have to fight.





Map source (Hoole, 2013)



## USEFUL RESOURCES



Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

**YOUTUBE:** <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

**WEBSITE:** <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

**CHURCH:** <https://apcwo.org>

**FREE SERMONS:** <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

**FREE BOOKS:** <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

**DAILY DEVOTIONALS:** <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

**JESUS CHRIST:** <https://examiningjesus.com>

**BIBLE COLLEGE:** <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

**E-LEARNING:** <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

**WEEKEND SCHOOLS:** <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

**COUNSELING:** <https://chrysalislife.org>

**MUSIC:** <https://apcmusic.org>

**MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP:** <https://pamfi.org>

**CHURCH APP:** <https://apcwo.org/app>

**CHURCHES:** <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

**WORLD MISSIONS:** <https://apcworldmissions.org>