



End Times Bible Prophecy – The Middle East Conflict
Part-1
Sunday September 01, 2024

We begin today a 4-part sermon series on End Times Bible Prophecy. In this series we will cover:

Sun Sep 01: The Middle East Conflict

Sun Sep 08: Antichrist, False Prophet, Mark of the Beast

Sun Sep 15: Russia, Iran, Turkey and kings of the East

Sun Sep 22: The Battle of Armageddon and the Second Coming of Jesus Christ

Today: The Middle East Conflict

We will address the Middle East Conflict by considering: The Land, The City and The Temple. The Land referring to the nation of Israel. The City referring to the city of Jerusalem. The Temple referring to the present Temple Mount and the future Third Temple as mentioned in the Bible.

THE LAND

The promise was first made to Abraham (Genesis 15:18-21), then confirmed to his son Isaac (Genesis 26:3), and then to Isaac's son Jacob (Genesis 28:13), Abraham's grandson. The promised land was described in terms of the territory from the River of Egypt (the river Nile) to the Euphrates river (Exodus 23:31).

Genesis 15:18

On the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying: "To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates—

Deuteronomy 11:24

Every place on which the sole of your foot treads shall be yours: from the wilderness and Lebanon, from the river, the River Euphrates, even to the Western Sea, shall be your territory.

Joshua 1:4

From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the River Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your territory.



The Establishment of Israel (1948 AD): On May 14, 1948, the State of Israel was declared, and the modern Jewish state was established. This marked the culmination of the centuries-long dream of Jewish return to their homeland, fulfilling the Zionist vision of regathering the Jewish people. The declaration of independence led to the 1948 Arab-Israeli War, but despite the conflict, Israel maintained its sovereignty and became a home for Jews from around the world.

ISRAEL AS A NATION - FULFILLMENT OF BIBLE PROPHECY

The establishing of Israel as a nation is very significant and is a fulfillment of Bible prophecy:

Isaiah 11:12

He will set up a banner for the nations, And will assemble the outcasts of Israel, And gather together the dispersed of Judah From the four corners of the earth.

Isaiah 66:8

Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Shall the earth be made to give birth in one day? Or shall a nation be born at once? For as soon as Zion was in labor, She gave birth to her children.

Ezekiel 36:10-12,24

10 I will multiply men upon you, all the house of Israel, all of it; and the cities shall be inhabited and the ruins rebuilt.

11 I will multiply upon you man and beast; and they shall increase and bear young; I will make you inhabited as in former times, and do better for you than at your beginnings. Then you shall know that I am the LORD.

12 Yes, I will cause men to walk on you, My people Israel; they shall take possession of you, and you shall be their inheritance; no more shall you bereave them of children."

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

Ezekiel 37:21

"Then say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Surely I will take the children of Israel from among the nations, wherever they have gone, and will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land;

THE ISRAEL-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

We take a quick look at Israel and its neighbors. Israel is a tiny nation compared to its neighbors. All are Arab nations.



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Israel and its Neighbors



Source: Google Maps

As most of us are aware, major areas of conflict are the West Bank and Gaza.

West Bank and Gaza





The Israel-Palestinian conflict is rooted in competing national movements and territorial claims in the region historically known as Palestine, now encompassing modern-day Israel and the Palestinian territories (West Bank, Gaza Strip).

The conflict's origins trace back to the late 19th and early 20th centuries, during the rise of both Jewish nationalism (Zionism) and Arab nationalism. The conflict intensified around the time of the Balfour Declaration in 1917, in which the British government expressed support for a "national home for the Jewish people" in Palestine, then part of the Ottoman Empire.

Zionism: Jewish immigrants began arriving in Palestine, seeking to establish a Jewish homeland. This movement grew especially after World War I and during the interwar period, driven by persecution in Europe and the Holocaust.

Arab Nationalism: Arab residents of Palestine opposed the large-scale immigration of Jews and the idea of a Jewish state, fearing it would lead to their displacement and loss of their own national aspirations.

Key Issues in the Conflict

1. **Territorial Disputes:** The future borders between Israel and a potential Palestinian state, and control over the West Bank and Gaza Strip.
2. **Jerusalem:** Both Israelis and Palestinians claim Jerusalem as their capital. The city holds religious significance for Jews, Muslims, and Christians. We will talk about this shortly.
3. **Refugees:** The right of return for Palestinian refugees displaced during the 1948 war and their descendants.
4. **Security Concerns:** Israel's security concerns over terrorism, especially from groups like Hamas, and Palestinians' security concerns under Israeli military occupation.

The conflict remains unresolved, with intermittent violence and no clear path to lasting peace. The situation is characterized by a political stalemate, humanitarian challenges, and deep-seated mistrust between the parties involved. The international community continues to advocate for a two-state solution, though progress has been limited.

The Israel-Palestinian conflict remains one of the world's most complex and protracted conflicts, with deep historical roots and significant geopolitical implications.



Current Situation

There has been and currently is ongoing conflict between Israel and its neighbors, most notably several Iran backed militant groups.

Israel and Hamas: the Palestinian group Hamas controls Gaza. Hamas launched its deadly attack on Israel on October 7, 2023, prompting the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) to engage in aerial campaigns and ground operations within the Gaza Strip.

Israel and Fatah: the Palestinian faction Fatah controls the West Bank. Hamas and Fatah are two rival Palestinian factions.

Israel and Hezbollah: the Iran-backed Lebanese militant group Hezbollah operating out of Lebanon.

Israel and Houthi Rebels: operating out of Yemen, who back Hamas.

Israel and Iran: Iran carried out its first-ever direct attack on Israeli territory on April 13, 2024.

Hamas, Fatah, Hezbollah and Houthi are all in many ways backed by Iran.

All these conflicts could potentially blow up into a large-scale conflict in the Middle East.

THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT - WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

What will happen soon? The Bible indicates in Joel 3 (see full chapter), Ezekiel 38-39, Revelation 16:12-16, Revelation 19:11-21 an all-out war, where the nations of the earth will gather against Israel. This will happen at the end of the 7-years of Tribulation, which is Biblically referred to as the Battle of Armageddon. Two specific locations are mentioned: the Valley of Jehoshaphat (the Kidron Valley) east of Jerusalem, and Megiddo in Northern Israel.

Joel 3:1-2,9-12

1 "For behold, in those days and at that time, When I bring back the captives of Judah and Jerusalem,

2 I will also gather all nations, And bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; And I will enter into judgment with them there On account of My people, My heritage Israel, Whom they have scattered among the nations; They have also divided up My land.

9 Proclaim this among the nations: "Prepare for war! Wake up the mighty men, Let all the men of war draw near, Let them come up.

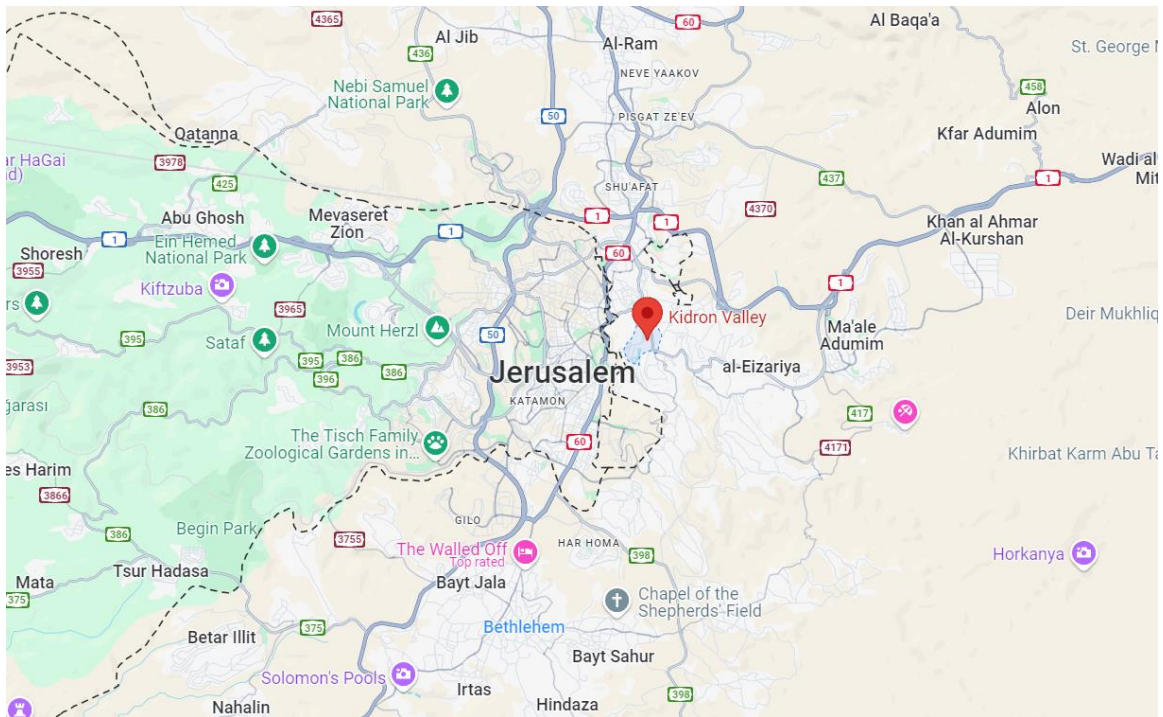
10 Beat your plowshares into swords And your pruning hooks into spears; Let the weak say, 'I am strong.' "

11 Assemble and come, all you nations, And gather together all around. Cause Your mighty ones to go down there, O LORD.



12 "Let the nations be wakened, and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; For there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations.

Valley of Jehoshaphat (Joel 3:12): The Valley of Jehoshaphat is traditionally identified with the Kidron Valley, which lies between the eastern walls of the Old City of Jerusalem and the Mount of Olives. In Joel 3:12, the Valley of Jehoshaphat is described as the place where God will gather all nations for judgment in the "Day of the Lord." The name "Jehoshaphat" means "Yahweh judges," symbolizing divine judgment. While no physical valley known as Jehoshaphat exists by name today, the Kidron Valley is widely associated with this biblical reference. The valley has historical significance and has been a burial site since ancient times, adding to its association with judgment.



Kidron Valley (Valley of Jehosaphat) Source: Google Maps

Revelation 16:12-16

12 Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared.

13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.

14 For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

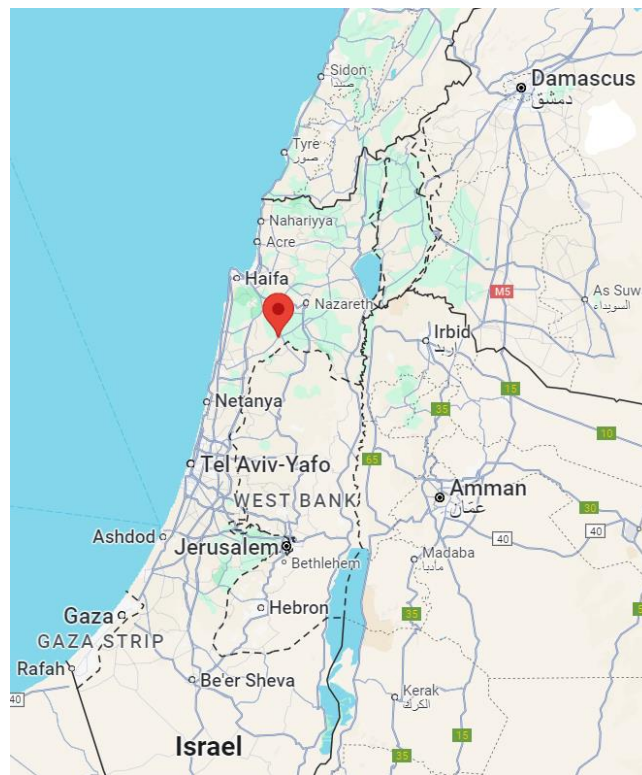


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15 "Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame."

16 And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.

Armageddon (Revelation 16:16): Armageddon is derived from the Hebrew "Har Megiddo," meaning "Mount of Megiddo." This refers to the ancient city of Megiddo, located in northern Israel. The site is situated on a strategic hill overlooking the Jezreel Valley, near the modern town of Megiddo. In Revelation 16:16, Armageddon is the prophesied location of the final battle between the forces of good and evil. It is depicted as the gathering place for armies in the end times. The archaeological site of Tel Megiddo is a UNESCO World Heritage site and has been excavated extensively. The surrounding Jezreel Valley is a vast plain, historically a battleground due to its strategic location.



Location of Megiddo (Armageddon) Source: Google Maps

THE CITY OF JERUSALEM

Jerusalem will become a world trouble spot, and many nations will turn against Israel.



Many nations will turn against Israel in the last days and the entire world will be focused on Jerusalem. It is possible that the issue of Palestine and the conflict surrounding the Temple Mount, will only increase the world's pressure being placed on Israel.

Zechariah 12:1-3

1 The burden of the word of the LORD against Israel. Thus says the LORD, who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man within him:

2 "Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem.

3 And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it.

One of the main reasons Jerusalem is troubled is because of the Temple Mount.

THE TEMPLE

The Temple Mount





Dome of the Rock (center) and the Al-Aqsa Mosque (toward the wall Southside) on the Temple Mount.

Jerusalem remains the most contested city on earth, having fallen to invading forces more than 20 times throughout its recorded history. The land to which God sent Abraham some 4,000 years ago lies at the very crossroads of three continents. It is also holy to three religions.

The Temple Mount ("Mount of the House of God"), known to Muslims as the Haram al-Sharif ("the Noble Sanctuary"), a hill (Mt. Moriah) located in the Old City of Jerusalem, is one of the most important religious sites in the world.

Background And History Of The Temple Mount

- Mt. Moriah is where Abraham brought Isaac to sacrifice.
- Later Israel's King David purchased this site on Mt. Moriah, which was a threshing floor and built an altar on it, offered his sacrifice intending it to be the site of the temple (1 Chronicles 21-22).
- King Solomon built the first Temple (2 Chronicles 3:1). The Temple Mount is so named because it is the location of the temple built by David's son Solomon.
- The Temple was destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 B.C.
- Zerubbabel rebuilt the temple (called the second Temple).
- Herod the Great refurbished and enlarged temple (called Herod's Temple).
- This temple was destroyed by the Roman general Titus in A.D. 70.
- The Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock were constructed from A.D. 685 to 691 atop the temple platform erected centuries earlier by the biblical King Herod the Great, it remains a major flash point between Israelis and Arabs.

The controversy over the Temple Mount (or as the Muslims call it the Haram al-Sharif): The Muslims believe that Muhammed stepped of his horse and went into heaven from this point. After the Muslim conquest of Jerusalem in 637 A.D., Umayyad Caliphs commissioned the construction of the Al-Aqsa Mosque and Dome of the Rock on the site in 691. A.D. The Dome was completed in 692 A.D., making it one of the oldest extant Islamic structures in the world, after the Kaabah. The Dome of the Rock currently sits in the middle, occupying or close to the area where the Holy Temple previously stood. The Al-Aqsa Mosque rests on the far southern side of the Mount, facing Mecca.

Temple Mount - The Dome of the Rock



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The Western Wall Plaza adjoining the Temple Mount



Prayer at the Western Wall



Vast majority of Jews believe that the Holy of Holies stood where the Dome of the Rock currently stands.

THE THIRD TEMPLE AND THE MILLENNIAL TEMPLE

The Old and New Testaments affirm that a new temple will once again be built on the Temple Mount. We refer to this as **the Third Temple**. This Third Temple will be desecrated by the Antichrist during the Tribulation (Daniel 8:11-12; Daniel 9:27; Matthew 24:15-21; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Revelation 11:1-2; Revelation 13:5-6). After the Tribulation and at the beginning of the Millennium, this temple will be cleansed, consecrated and restored. We refer to this as **the Millennial Temple** (Isaiah 2:2-3; Ezekiel 37:21-28; Ezekiel chapters 40-48; Micah 4:1-2; Haggai 2:7-9; Zechariah 6:12-15; Zechariah 14:20).

THE ANTICHRIST AND THE DESECRATION OF THE THIRD TEMPLE

Daniel 8:11-12

11 He even exalted himself as high as the Prince of the host; and by him the daily sacrifices were taken away, and the place of His sanctuary was cast down.

12 Because of transgression, an army was given over to the horn to oppose the daily sacrifices; and he cast truth down to the ground. He did all this and prospered.

Daniel 9:27



Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate."

Matthew 24:15,21

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),
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.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-8

1 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you,
2 not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come.
3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,
4 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.
5 Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?
6 And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time.
7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way.
8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.

The Church (is "He who now restrains") will be taken out of the way, and then the antichrist will be revealed. This antichrist will sit as God in the temple of God. So there has to be a Temple in place for this to be fulfilled.

Revelation 11:1-2

1 Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood, saying, "Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there.
2 But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months.

Revelation 13:5-6



5 And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months.

6 Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven.

All of these Scriptures clearly indicate that a Temple has to be in place. While we do not know how and when this Temple will be built, we can see signs of the times and consider possible ways this could happen.

Interestingly over the years, significant preparations have been made to rebuild a Temple on the Temple Mount and re-institute ceremonial worship. Efforts are in progress towards readiness once the Third Temple comes up on the Temple Mount.

Since 1987, a group of rabbinical researchers, designers, and craftsmen, under the direction of Rabbi Yisrael Ariel, have been creating in the Jewish Quarter of Jerusalem what they call a "Temple-in-waiting." Their efforts have resulted in computerized visualization and blueprints for the Third Temple and the production of ritually qualified vessels, garments, and other items necessary for a restoration of the Temple services. Known as the Temple Institute (www.templeinstitute.org), this organization has been at the forefront of the publication of Third Temple research.

According to Temple Institute detailed blueprints for the Third Temple have existed for the last several years. The plans were necessarily drawn according to the primary sources for this information: the Bible, Josephus, and Middot. Additions to these ancient specifications have included the use of electricity and other modern improvements that agree with Halacha (the Law). Other structures pertaining to the Temple's function have also been planned or actually built. Several thousand priests are prepared and ready to serve ceremonially in the soon-to-be Temple.

SUMMARY

LOOK AT THE NATIONS

As we scan what is happening in the nations of the world, we know what Bible prophecy, recorded thousands of years ago. It is amazing to see things unfold as they were foretold. It is also a call for us to recognize the signs of the times in which we live.

THE TIME OF THE END IS NEAR

Knowing Bible prophecy and understanding the times in which we live, what should our focus be? How should we live our lives? What should our priorities be?

GOSPEL AND SALVATION CALL



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SUPERNATURAL MINISTRY TIME

Minister as the Spirit leads



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LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

End Times Bible Prophecy – The Middle East Conflict Part-1 Sunday September 01, 2024

This is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full-length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at our [sermons page](#). Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship, and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture references: *see below*.

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

1, The regathering of Israel was foretold many thousands of year ago. Read: Ezekiel 36:10-12,24 Ezekiel 37:21. What are your reactions to being a generation that has actually seen this fulfilled?

2, The Bible has foretold that nations will come against Israel, leading to the battle of Armageddon. Read: Joel 3:1-2,9-12; Revelation 16:12-16. Do you think this would be fulfilled?



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3, Jerusalem will be a trouble spot for the whole world as foretold in Zechariah 12:1-3. Do you think this is being fulfilled in our times?

4, Is it possible for a third temple to be built as mentioned in Matthew 24:15,21; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-8 (and other Scriptures)? Imagine some possible ways how this could happen?

5, Knowing Bible prophecy and understanding the times in which we live, what should our focus be? How should we live our lives? What should our priorities be?

If time permits, each one can take a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

1, families to be protected and strengthened

2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.

3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for all details to go well as we plan and build our Bible college and church facilities to serve the Lord and people.

Close by thanking God together.



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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>

SERMON OUTLINE

Bible prophecy is history written in advance. In this sermon series on End Times Bible Prophecy, we consider topics such as: The Middle East Conflict. The Antichrist, False Prophet, and the Mark of the Beast. Russia, Iran, Turkey and the kings of the East. The Battle of Armageddon and the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. In this sermon we focus on the land of Israel, the city of Jerusalem and the Temple (Third Temple).

KEYWORDS

end times, bible prophecy, middle east conflict, Antichrist, False Prophet, Mark of the Beast, kings of the East, Armageddon, Second Coming, Third Temple, Millennial Temple, sermons, sermon notes, sermon outline, free sermon notes, free sermon outlines, Bible study resources

REFERENCES/CITATIONS

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Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries, Strong's Exhaustive Concordance by James Strong, S.T.D., LL.D. Published in 1890; public domain.

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