


WHAT NEXT?
ERA'S END?
CHRIST'S
RETURN?
A WAR?
PEACE IN OUR
TIME?

ARAMAIC BIBLE COMPANION
MONOGRAPH

WHAT NEXT?

This is a genuine ABC production  authored by *Bob Coffey* and may not be reproduced or transmitted in any manner for financial profit

INTRODUCTION: THE END OF THE WORLD WENT PAST NICELY

Can we now as Christians settle down to routine living with this “crying wolf” about the end being nigh well behind us?

The end of the world passed off nice and quietly! Or we should say the end of the Mayan calendar on December 21 2012 was very evidently a “non-event”. I have in my short life-time of 70 years now witnessed 4 such “damp squibs” or “non-such” finales to predictions of the end of the world. The first was the supposed climax of history under Radachrishna in 1960-61 the second was circa 1975 when dancing Jehovah Witnesses were in the streets of Edinburgh proclaiming the “end”. Then the cultic American Davidic sect burned some members alive as they greeted the end with terrible fear. Now this Mayan world end event that hit world headlines is past and gone. We might well be prompted to ask “What next?” Is all the excitement over? Is the world going to settle down to another thousand years of peace? Does the bible have anything to say? Am I going to fold up the literature of the holy prophets along with Nostradamus and the Mayan predictions and live content in this lovely world for ever after? No. I must be a witness.. I must be willing for all God’s will in my life. I must be a watcher lest I or others I love become like the foolish virgins.

CHAPTER ONE

NO MAN KNOWS THE DAY OR THE HOUR

Yes indeed, the bible has a lot to say. Let me first deal with a rather remarkable and much quoted saying of Jesus “No man knows the day nor the hour when the Son of Man is coming-that the Father has kept in His own power”. Jesus later said after His resurrection that all power in heaven and earth had been given Him. There is *a priori* something of an enigma in Jesus’ first statement. Let me explain it in a paragraph.

THE LORD BY PARABLE AND SIGNS SET THE SCENE OF HIS RETURN AT CONSIDERABLE DISTANCE

Our Lord gave many classic signs of His return and I will presently take you through the major relevant signs of the imminent event concerning which our Lord spoke. But first Jesus replied with a definite query stopper to Peter and the disciples who wished almost 2000 years ago to know exactly when He was coming back. (Matt 24.36). He himself described His return as a visit or Parousia. Paul in Thessalonians details it as a “catching away”(1Thess5.17) of the church or the “out-redemption”(Romans8.23) of our bodies in face of a gross conflict and anti-Christ or substitute world ruler who will impose his will on Israel and the world amid gross trouble(2 Thess.2.3-4)

THE VERSE THAT MANY USE TO PREVENT VIGILANCE

Now to the promised paragraph and to dismiss the crazy misunderstanding of the verse that those shy of the rapture and the imminent return of Christ hide behind with great confidence viz. “No man knows the day or the hour”.

The “authority” of which Jesus spoke is termed EZOUSIA in Greek or in the Aramaic of Jesus’ usage MASHAL or “teaching authority”. This authority Jesus refused to use on earth despite the fact that as God he was omniscient. Peter acknowledged “Lord you know all things” This authority Jesus spoke of then is in the hands of God as

sovereign. He knows the last day of the Christian era. Will we ever know of its proximity? I believe so. How come? Well the teaching authority of the glorified Christ through the Holy Spirit has the prerogative to elucidate what is written in scripture and Christ said "He(the Holy Spirit) would show us "all things". Thus though *the very day of the return of Christ is not given in scripture* the events that follow the final peace treaty with Israel and the Arab world- in a heptad or seven year period are fully annotated in the Apocalypse (Daniel9.25-27 and the 7 META TAUTA periods of Apocalypse 5-19 as are the earth signs of the first period "blood fire pillars of smoke" and "heaven signs" of the second-"the moon as blood, the sun darkened"(Luke 21.25 et alii). Just such a treaty is currently the object of international diplomacy and was to be in place by the end of 2012 but the "quartet" of America, Russia, Europe and the United Nations has not yet been successful to implement it.

CHAPTER TWO WE ARE LIVING IN THE END-TIMES

WHY DO YOU THINK WE ARE NEAR THE END?

There is a very ancient tradition even recognizable in the "parade of history" line-up of "days" in the Greek text of 2Peter 3, also in the epistle of Barnabas and even within Jewish tradition that the world is established for a week and that Messiah's kingdom will stand for "a day" or a thousand years at the end of that week. The Mayan and Nostradamus predictions no doubt somewhere along the line borrow from that tradition. Like many traditions handed down from earlier time this one has some claim on our attention but it does not(save in the case of 2 Peter) have reason to be received as gospel alongside what the Holy Spirit of God Himself has revealed in scripture.

THE HOLY SPIRIT SAYS SO

The Holy Spirit has revealed that a third world conflict is allied to the heptad and the scripture is explicit that Iran is at the vortex of that conflict along with Russia.(Ezekiel 37-38-39 with the relevant references in the Apocalypse 8.7,11.11,14.10,19.17-18,21,20.9 (1) The Holy Spirit has revealed that all the world will be reached with the gospel message whether written preached or signalled by the ether in the same context (Mark13.10,Matthew 24.14); I recently listened to a 2 hour program beamed by satellite from the USA where leaders of Wycliffe Translators, YWAM, OM and Trinity Broadcasting concluded that during this decade we are due to complete the promulgation of the gospel. (2) The Holy Spirit has revealed that Israel(the fig tree) would begin to prosper in these days (Mt.24.32,Mk13.28,Lk21.29) but constitute a "heavy stone" for the nations (Zech.12.3) and on all hands the "middle-east problem centring on Israel is recognised as the No.1 war or peace issue of today. (3) The Holy Spirit has revealed that Jews would again erect the "tabernacle of David" –a preliminary construction to the temple spoken of in Ezekiel.(Acts15 16-17) (4) The Holy Spirit has revealed that of those Jews who enter Israel there will be a substantial remainder when the return of Christ is imminent.(Matthew 24.34, Mark 13.30) I am reliably informed that there are 70,000 holocaust survivors even as I write.(5) In the gospel of Luke the Holy Spirit has revealed that "On earth nations will be in anguish with perplexity (APHORIA-inability to pay debt) and(6) the Holy Spirit has further revealed that the "sea and the waves will be roaring"(literally undersea quaking and ocean surface rolling)(Luke 21.25). (7) The Holy Spirit has further revealed through Peter's epistle that in days of nuclear fission "When the elements melt or fuse with

fervent heat” the “day of the Lord” is at hand. This is such an era and mercifully the event of 2 Peter 3.12 has been withheld by non-proliferation treaties etc. but a nuclear race has now begun again. Without expanding the theme further to other indicators it would appear from these facts that we are near to the Heptad of the Apocalypse-in other words the realisation of Apocalyptic events. It would be wholly cavalier to deny the evidence now before our eyes. For the reasons given and the associated news that we read daily in the press which runs parallel to the prophetic scriptures I am persuaded we are so close to the events that precede and follow the Lord’s return that it can only be described in Jesus words as “at the very doors.”

CHAPTER THREE O CHURCH OF GOD AWAKE-IT IS HIGH TIME TO STIR OUT OF SLUMBER!

THE BRIDEGROOM COMETH

Very well, let us continue with prayer and daily evangelistic zeal inspired by enthusiastic watchfulness for the coming of the Lord our heavenly bridegroom as He commended that we should do in His parable of the “wise and foolish virgins”(Matthew 25.1ff) and His further exhortation in that of “good man and the thief”(Mt.24.42-44) what God has in mind for His church amid the grave developments in world history just ahead.

We have already seen that the Great Commission of Christ to carry the gospel to all nations is in sight of its accomplishment. When the “Church Age” is over what then? Then the Kingdom age is about to begin but a bleak interlude of the Great Tribulation spaces these two glorious eras. We are reliably informed by the apostle to the Gentiles when he wrote to the earliest Church he monitored in Europe advising them that the man of sin or Antichrist would come but the church would not suffer the wrath of that time. Yes, persecutions would attend the church’s long history but it would be spared the wrath of man when pillars of smoke and fire came upon earth. Paul said “God did not appoint us to suffer wrath” in the “sudden destruction that comes as pain on a pregnant woman without possible escape” (1Thessalonians 5.1-9). This “fire” which we understand as elemental or nuclear(2 Peter3.10 & Ezekiel 39.6 with Joel2.30) spells a tragic but prophesied reduction of the earth’s population(Rev.8.10ff) but Israel on earth by divine shielding and the church by “out-redemption” will be taken to the covert of the Lord’s presence (Isaiah 26.20 with 1 Thess.5.19)

When the bridegroom cometh will your robes be white
Pure and white in the blood of the Lamb?
Will your soul be ready for the mansion bright
Are you washed in the blood of the lamb?

CHAPTER FOUR THE TURMOIL OF NATIONS BEFORE CHRIST RETURNS TO JUDGE ALL NATIONS

BEHOLD THE FIG TREE AND ALL THE TREES

Let us obey our Lord and *look at the Fig tree and all the trees (Luke 21.29)* and so view the end game of international politics as we factor in the future of leading nations prophetically and in the light of what we now know in a brief survey.

IRAQ (ASSYRIA & NINEVEH)

Iraq in the fertile crescent is the cradle of civilisation.

A highly significant statement of John the divine has to be factored in to the last mention of the land in scripture. John says "The sixth angel poured his vial on the great river Euphrates and *its water was dried up* to prepare the way of the kings from the East." (Apocalypse 16.12) This occurs in tandem with intense diplomacy in favour of a world struggle to establish false prophecy and earth-wide dominion concerted by Satan.

As to the "drying up of the river" the root meaning of the Greek term (Ξερ-αίνω) is "dryness combined with the "Ah!" cry of warfare". The text of Apocalypse 16.12 says the river "will have been drained" by war so that it will be easy prey for eastern kings.

EGYPT (MIZRAIM)

One of the oldest civilisations on earth is that of Egypt.

The prophetic prospects of Egypt for 40 years after the conflict implicit in Daniel is dire. By the same token the prospect is totally altered with the inception of Messiah's reign and so upbeat as to include humble new beginnings for this proud nation as foretold in scripture. *Five re-established cities on her northern borders will worship the Lord and in the midst of her land an altar to Yahweh will outshine the glory of her world famous pyramids* (Isaiah 19 18-19). As the prophet says for over a generation Egypt will be a desolate waste *from Migdol by the coast to Aswan* and her inhabitants will be dispersed among the nations. (Ezekiel 29 10-12) No foot or animal will pass through the land. *An end time disaster of 40 years duration looms in the future history of this nation which is more plausibly linked with war than flood.*

IRAN (PERSIA)

"Iran" (land of the Aryans) has been the name of this land since 1935. The country is the 18th largest in the world though its population is only 75 million. In the days of the biblical Daniel it moved suddenly into the sphere of Persian control in the halcyon days of Belshazzar.

Ezekiel 38 where we read that Iran is the primary ally of Russia. Ezekiel 38.5-6 reads, **"PERSIA and Ethiopia with Southern Egypt and Libya complete with body armour and helmet. Gomer (Apparently but not conclusively our "Germany" rather a mid-eastern power as Turkey) and all its armed wings; the house of Togarmah (Turkey or in Jewish Tarum "Garmania or Kerman in Persia) the remote regions of the obscure north and all its armed wings (Hebrew pja), great peoples are with you."**

RUSSIA (ROSH)

Thus says the Lord ... "When my people Israel are living in safety you will come from your place in the far north" Russia will take the lead in promoting a third world struggle. And all your expeditionary soldiers (Hebrew ljj meaning attack and defensive capability – especially army divisions). Horses that draw chariots and pairs of riders (Hebrew SWS and CRP speak of military expeditionary forces as organised in earlier ages but apply well today for the wheeled vehicles still depend on power which we call horsepower or cubic capacity and the drivers still spread their legs and use their feet to propel the vehicles forward. I understand the same principle may apply to interpreting the "locusts and scorpions" of the Apocalypse) All protected and supplied with weapons (Hebrew ylk "arms" lklk "uniform, protection") A great assembly of nations (Hebrew lhq which began by being

"called" together) with full cover shield and small protective shield. This description fits a modern army better than an earlier one. Ancient forces usually bore one shield. In any future war the soldiery would be supplied with total body protection for fall-out and also have their body armour or "smaller shield" for defence against conventional armed conflict. All of them handling swords each modern soldier has a bayonet and probably a knife besides... I will bring you from the far north and send you against the mountains of Israel. Then I will strike your bow from your left hand and make your arrows drop from your right hand, On the mountains of Israel you will fall and all your troops and the nations with you".(Ezekiel 38 14-16 & 39 2-5)

(4) SYRIA

It is in the oracle of Isaiah against Damascus that we read **"Damascus will no longer be a city but will become a heap of ruins"** (Isaiah 17.1). At the time of writing the Defence ministry nerve centre was attacked by a large explosion and widespread civil war has taken hold of Aleppo and the Damascus environs. Already some environs of Damascus are in ruin. "The remnant of Syria will be the glory of Israel", whispers the Lord. Whilst the present capital is headed for rubble the Lord will be glorified in "a remnant" within the land- of which today amongst the Kurds and broadcast like a diaspora there is already a semblance. The ultimate nemesis of Damascus as a civilised city is coming but "He who prevents will hold it up till He is taken out of the reckoning"

CHINA

The prophet Malachi proclaimed **"My name will be great from where the sun rises to where it sets."** From Shanghai to Los Angeles this is true today. Chinese Christianity is experiencing exponential growth.

On the darker side we read in the Apocalypse of an army of multiple millions advancing over the Euphrates river-bed and driving for Har Megiddo and the final conflict of the third world war (Apocalypse 16.12). This army strength is 200,000,000 (Apocalypse 9.16). The lethal power of this army will be unleashed on a particular hour of a day of a given month and year and this move is allied to the destruction of a third of humanity. This largest ever loss of human life runs to several thousand millions and by a deduction from eastern population figures and the strength of armies in the orient confirmed by current plain statistics and army base to which scripture testifies China has to be implicated. Without the Rapture the circumstances cannot be modelled as of now

GREECE

The nation anciently known as Javan is spoken of as "the isles" in several prophetic contexts. It appears to represent in ancient prophecy other European nations and so share with them in the devastation of the third world war closely related to the latter day northern invasion of Israel (Ezekiel 39.6 and Zechariah 9.13). By some turn of events God's lightning arrow smites Greece within the context of "storms or war-clouds of the south".

ITALY

In the context of the final heptad or tribulation there is a mysterious clash between the beast and the woman on the scarlet beast (Apocalypse 17-18). It appears to lend credence to the ascendancy of the secular but it is quickly followed by the doom of

the economic glory of Europe. This all takes place **after** the greatest earthquake or shaking ever known and **the collapse of the cities** of the nations (Apocalypse 16.19) and results in *the end of commercialism and the expiry of the European dream*. “The merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her because no one buys their cargoes any more”...they will say “All your riches and splendour have vanished never to be recovered.” It appears that Rome after 2770 and more years will go up in flames. (Apocalypse 17.18). There are glimmerings of Italy’s financial malaise but again without the Rapture the circumstances cannot be modelled.

SAUDI AND THE ARAB STATES (INCLUDING LIBYA) Though it might seem implausible the Saudis defy the trend of the last days, abhor links with Russia and Iran and alongside Western European nations (and prominently Britain) challenge the ultimate Russian invasion of Israel, Egypt and the south in the last days (Ezekiel 38.13). The reference to Dedan in Ezekiel 38.13 is to a people of Cushite origin (with a possible mix from the Keturah line of Abraham) that settled in Southern Arabia in ancient Dadenah and were the ancient travelling merchants of the Arabian peninsula. *Sheba* for her part was the associated ancient Yemenite people.

TURKEY (TOGARMAH)

This nation today is a key player alongside NATO and yet has recently broken relationships with Israel with whom for years it was friendly. Turkey since Attaturk has sought to improve its democratic credentials and enter Europe as a full-blown member state but it would appear that Europe which has long demurred is somewhat cool towards Turkish participation and the incorporation of the concept of the worldwide Caliphate as envisaged by prime-minister Erdogan and the brotherhood movement under the agenda of European nations used to Christian traditions is a matter leading to great unease. There remains however, a liberal tradition in Turkey which I have sampled and especially around ancient Smyrna people are turning to Christ with growing confidence. According to Ezekiel 38 this nation is found in the last days within the northern alliance. The current alliance tensions of Turkey may continue to see-saw until the Rapture.

BRITAIN (ALLIED TO TARSHISH)

During the third war of the world in Ezekiel 38.13 (Hebrew) scripture reads “The merchant travellers of Tarshish” (a nation or nations of “large trading ships”) and all her “young ravens” [*רִפְּקִים* as opposed to “whelps” *רִמְּקִים*] (Wigram, Brown Driver & Briggs, Armstrong Busby & Carr) say to the Russian led confederacy that attacks Israel and Egypt “Have you come to draw off spoil?” This is on several counts a direct reference to Great Britain and her continuing role into the final Heptad of the present era.

CHAPTER FIVE THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AMERICA

Many American prophetic teachers believe a mega tragedy will conclude the role of their country on the earth. The “twin towers” attack may well have served to confirm this thinking. Despite this negativity I believe America continues to play a key role in the end times.

There are *four instances in the unveiling of the judgments of the last heptad in the Apocalypse that crave the name of America* and in view although she clearly yields

her authority for practical and economic purposes ultimately to the beast she retains control of her great military power and protective role over Israel even after the fall of cities and into what scripture calls the final 1260 days before the Lord's advent. (Apocalypse 12.6)

(1) Surveillance. Though it is passing difficult to cast into clear relief the international order that will prevail after the Parousia it would appear from the three characteristics of the "beast" that rises in the Mediterranean basin –namely it was like a female hunting panther or leopard, it had the feet of a bear and the mouth of a lion. America was seeded from Europe and has developed as a surveillance power in co-operation with Europe as it stalks world developments panther-like. The writ of the European "beast" described in terms of holding power over all peoples expressly in matters of business must be conceived to run as widely as the United States.

(2) Enlightenment. It is unwise to make the assumption that when the Church is raptured truth is gone. Scripture attests that thousands of Jews in the last days receive and broadcast the gospel. (Apocalypse 14.1-5) Taking the a priori position that America continues to be a shield to world Jewry when the serpent seeks to extinguish the vestige of truth they enshrine (Apocalypse 12.15) it would be entirely impossible that a considerable percentage of these witnesses were not found in the continuing United States of America. The close association within the story of the Heptad of the witnesses (Apocalypse 7.1-8 with Apocalypse 14.1-5) and the "(angel) messenger flying in mid-air" with the everlasting gospel and the two associated angel messengers proclaiming the "Fall of Great Babylon" and warning against the "mark of the beast and eternal judgment and the coming of the Lamb and His angels". This proclamation and witness appears to straddle the time of the seals and trumpets and bowls. It's mid air character and world coverage virtually equates to a satellite presentation of the good news and warnings of God and the nation best equipped to afford this ministry in association with the messengers of God would be America.

(3) Shielding. We come now to the most obvious reference to America in scripture. In two distinct places we read of a divine providence that shields the Jewish people. First in Apocalypse 12.6 we read of Israel as "the woman that fled into the wilderness to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1260 days". This is not a traditional account of Jewish residency in congenial society. This is an escape at the last by which means the remnant of the nation is preserved (cf. Daniel 12.1). A more precise description of this exodus from the active sovereignty of the beast is given in Apocalypse 12.13-17 where we read "When the dragon saw that he had been hurled to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child (Christ). The woman was given *the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the place prepared* for her in the wilderness, where she is preserved for a time times and half a time (1260 days) out of the serpent's reach.

(4) Warring. There is no reason to believe that America is militarily paralysed or totally knocked out by the events of the latter day wars. Under the fifth angel's war trumpet of Apocalypse 9.1-11 the first Woe occurs. The "star" that had fallen (Satan whom the Lord so described) held the key to the "shaft of the depths" or the oil wells of the world. The oil wealth of the world is heavily used to produce armaments for land sea and air deployment. In this instance John the divine is describing aeroplanes in biblical language-down to the camouflage netting that covers them. The locust like ruin that results from war brings nations to their knees. The first woe features a strategic use of air power. During five months of action the thundering planes of the first woe delivered a sting to nations that had not the seal of God. They took offensive action and delivered devastation but avoided bloodshed and civilian

targets. This action appears to be simultaneous with a significant change in the Euphrates peace-keeping operation (Apocalypse 9.14) and it would appear wholly possible that American engagement in the aerial action. The second woe takes us beyond containment to the “bitter” stage of latter day warfare. The mysterious “seven thunder peals” ring out; the mystery prophets forecast is imminent. There are four references to Ezekiel who records the detail of the third world war and three to Daniel who records the victory of the returning Christ. The airlift of Israelis to which I have referred is a second military operation of notable proportions but the third and most vital circumstance is the playing out of the Armageddon when *a third of mankind* were killed (Apocalypse 9.18) by the sophisticated tanks and rockets described in Apocalypse 9.17-19. Now even with the commitment of 200,000,000 oriental troops and multi-millions of opposing forces there is no way one third of mankind might die unless a mighty military power was effectively countering the Chinese assault. It seems clear that only all out Russian, Chinese, Iranian and *American* military engagement could account for the death of so many souls. Together with this the fall of the cities of the world (including those in Europe, Russia, China and America) would further immensely increase the death toll of war. Besides this the collapse of mountains and the submergence of islands would add to the immense loss of life. In the light of the above implications of apocalyptic material it is inescapable that a nation unknown to the prophets is fully implicated in the events of their narrative and her insignia and forces are well described by John the Divine under the guidance of the angel who had presumably lived as long as man was upon earth.

CHAPTER SIX ISRAEL-THE TICKING CLOCK OF PROPHECY

ISRAEL (JUDEA)

Israel registers larger mention in scripture than any other nation for obvious reasons. Israel is *the apple of God's eye* and is dear to God for the Patriarch's sake. Israel's capital as enlarged under Messiah is to be the centre of world glory.

In these days Israel features so prominently in the news columns of our daily newspapers that it becomes patently evident she is at the heart of modern political developments and on account of eschatological considerations she is the focus of prophecy and will continue to be at the eye of the storm as world events move towards the great divine event of the return of Christ.

As Alex Jacob states in his book “Enlarged Theology” “God's covenant with the Jewish people is eternal and not static. The Gentiles are fully within the covenant which was reshaped but not replaced by Christ. The covenant is to be embraced by Jews and Gentiles by faith in the Atonement of Jesus Christ. The ongoing progress of God is outworked through the story of Jews Meshiachim and Christians and the Tri-unitarian model of our understanding of God is the creative link between the three.”

To state the axiomatic biblical facts concerning Israel in the period of prophetic history introduced by *her coming of age in 1948* we should observe:-

- (1) That God has set Israel under the charge of Michael the arch-angel (*Daniel 12.1*)
- (2) That the Lord has promised to send Elijah before the dreadful day of the Lord (*Malachi 4.5*)
- (3) That as Jeremiah prophesied (*30.7*) Israel will enter Part 2 of the Heptad in a time of Jacob's trouble

- (4) The fig tree (Israel) would put forth branches and leaves before Messiah came (*Mt.24.32ff*)
- (5) The abomination of desolation (It nauseates God and brings no hope) will stand in the temple area (*Mark13.14*)
- (6) After the Armageddon (3rd world conflict) those in the towns of Israel will go out and use weapons for fuel (*Ezek.39.9*) ; *Gog* will be buried on the east of the Dead Sea (*39.11*); this the sovereign Lord says “I will restore the fortunes of Jacob and have compassion on all my people Israel”(39.25ff)(Paul says “All Israel shall be saved” (*Romans 25.26*). Gentile bible scholars demur, deny, debate and bring into disrepute the sovereignty of God with the prophetic and apostolic testimony in this matter.
- (7) The great city of Jerusalem will be split in 3 parts (*Apocalypse 16.19*)
- (8) *The sceptre shall not depart from Judah till Shiloh comes* nor a ruler from between his feet(Genesis49.10) Israel retains her own government until this hour. *Israel remains a sovereign state.*
- (9) The mountain of the Lord’s house shall rise above the hills
- (10)They shall beat their swords into ploughshares etc.
- (11)Nations will come to your Light; foreigners rebuild your walls; oppressors will bow before you; I will make you an everlasting pride; you will know that I, the Lord, am your Saviour, your Redeemer, the Mighty one of Jacob (*Isaiah 603ff.*)
- (12)I will rejoice in Jerusalem; never again will there be an infant that lives but a few days Isa. 65.20
- (13)They will look on me the one they pierced Zechariah 12.10.
- (14)Living water will flow east to the Dead Sea and west to the Mediterranean Zech.14.8 and the Lord will be king over all the earth.
- (15)Survivors of nations will go up year by year to worship the King, the Lord Almighty, and to celebrate the Festival of Tabernacles.

CHAPTER SEVEN SO WHERE DOES THAT LEAVE US?

Let me take you back to the verse with which we started. No man knows the “day” or “hour” when the Son of Man is coming. Jesus is coming and He says “Behold I come quickly or suddenly.” This is the final warning of the Apocalypse. Jesus left us a series of statements to balance the “no man knows” idyll. He said “Now learn the lesson of the fig tree: as soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door.” (*Matthew24.32*)

The Lord further said “Suppose the Master’s servant is wicked and says to himself, “My Master is staying away a long time,” and he begins to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with the drunkards. The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect Him and at an hour he is not aware of.”(*Matt.24.48-50*)

Jesus also warned “When the foolish virgins were on their way to buy oil(or get saved) the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with Him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. Later the others also came. “Lord, Lord” they said, “Open the door for us!” But He replied, “Truly I tell you, I don’t know you”. “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.”(*Matt.25.13*)

As recorded in the gospel of Luke our Lord said “It will be good for those whose master finds them ready, even if He comes in the middle of the night or towards daybreak. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect Him”. *From this it would appear Jesus was well aware of the circumstances surrounding his return. Elsewhere He said “When he comes will he find faith on the earth?” which alludes to the previous rapture of the saints.*

We might say “What can we do to create peace?” The answer is preach!

We might say “What will we do if there is a 3rd world war?” The answer is “Get soundly saved and stand still and see the salvation of your God”

We might say “What about the Antichrist, the mark and that terrible trouble you talked about? The answer is “God has not appointed us for wrath. Mark that reassuring verse in your bible -it is 1Thessalonians 5.19.

We should say “I will occupy till he comes; I will watch and pray, I will see to it that my light of witness is burning brightly”.

Yes “wars are determined until the end” and there is a big one ahead. Yes there is international debt but there is also the gradual emergence of Europe as a powerful empire.

Yes Israel is forecast to be hated as Christians are worldwide.

But Christ is coming in the rapture and instantly the world will suffer a sea-change and enter a perilous war. A global leadership will arise involving a widely effective clamping down on freedom, an authoritarian world administration and offering a false peace apparently recognising the ancient covenant of Israel’s residency and right in Palestine. At its breach wholesale war will break out followed along by some of the greatest disasters ever to fall on mankind. To put an end to this titanic struggle Christ will return in glory and claim his people Israel in true fulfilment of the ancient covenant and the eternal covenant of Salvation and under His rule all nations shall be judged and settled and blessed.

**The sceptre shall not depart from Judah
Nor a lawgiver from between his feet
Until SHILOH come.
Thine be the Kingdom and the Glory for ever.
Amen.**

**Bob Coffey
Aramaic Bible Companion**

