

End of Time Study

God's call to urgency

Part 1, Where we are. The Beginning of the End.

I have been asked many times, "Why now?" People have been predicting the end of the world for centuries. What makes our time in history different than any other time?

One hundred years ago, in say 1909, there was not one single, tangible, measurable sign that indicated we were living in the last days before the Lord's return. In those days, if you wanted to go somewhere, you harnessed your horse or, maybe, cranked your new fangled automobile. There was no technology in place that could be used to understand the language of the scripture prophecies. The best way to call somebody was to go outside and yell. "Texting" would have meant writing a letter. There were no radios, no television and, certainly no computers or internet. There had been wars, but, nothing on a world wide scale.

There was no Jewish nation. One of the first things we must understand is that the Nation of Israel plays a leading role in end time prophecy. With out Israel, no prophecy...simple as that.

Let's take a step back in History.

In order to understand where we are and where we are going, it is first necessary to know some history.

In the year 66 AD the Jews of Judea rebelled against the Romans. The Emperor Nero dispatched an army under general Vespasian to restore order. By the year 68, resistance in the northern part of the province had been subdued and the Romans turned their full attention to the conquest of Jerusalem. That same year, the Emperor Nero died, creating a power vacuum in Rome. In the resultant chaos, Vespasian was declared Emperor and returned to the Imperial City. It fell to his son, Titus, to lead the remaining army in the assault on Jerusalem.

The Roman legions surrounded the city and began to slowly squeeze the life out of the Jewish stronghold. By the year 70, the attackers had breached Jerusalem's outer walls and began a systematic ransacking of the city. The assault culminated in the burning and destruction of the Temple that served as the center of Judaism.

In victory, the Romans slaughtered thousands. Of those spared from death: thousands more were enslaved and sent to toil in the mines of Egypt, others were dispersed to arenas throughout the Empire to be butchered for the amusement of the public. The Temple's sacred relics were taken to Rome where they were displayed in celebration of the victory. The gold from the Jewish Temple was used to finance the Coliseum in Rome.

All resistance from the Jewish Revolt and all remnants of a Jewish nation were finally eradicated by the Romans at Masada in 74 AD.

From that time on, it was illegal and forbidden for any Jew to enter into Jerusalem. There was no Jewish nation, no Jewish country or land. There were only Jewish people. Throughout the European Dark Ages and Middle Ages, Jewish people were, by law, forbidden from even owning land...anywhere.

The Beginning of the End Times The Resurrection of the State of Israel

And for 1,875 years the Jewish people wandered through the world, a distinct people without a place to call home. They have been savagely persecuted through those years, and yet despite their efforts to integrate into the countries where they resided, they still remained a people apart.

In Ezekiel 37, God prophesies that there would come a time when Israel will be without hope of ever finding a home, and they will think that they will utterly perish as a people. If nothing else, the Nazi extermination camps of World War II convinced them that they would become extinct. And yet God had different plans.

Ezekiel 37:1-14 The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which [was] full of bones, 2 And caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, [there were] very many in the open valley; and, lo, [they were] very dry. 3 And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord GOD, thou knowest. 4 Again he said unto me, Prophecy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live: 6 And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I [am] the LORD. So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone. 8 And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but [there was] no breath in them. 9 Then said he unto me, Prophecy unto the wind, prophecy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon

these slain, that they may live. 10 So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army. 11 Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts. 12 Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. 13 And ye shall know that I [am] the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves, 14 And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken [it], and performed [it], saith the LORD.

The first sign of a Reconstituted Nation of Israel to appear was the Balfour Declaration, which was issued by the British government on November 2, 1917. This Declaration was prompted by the fact that during World War I the Turks sided with the Germans. Thus, when Germany lost the war, so did the Turks, and the victorious Allies decided to divide up both the German and Turkish empires.

The Turkish territories, called the Ottoman Empire, contained the ancient homeland of the Jewish people — an area the Romans had named Palestine after the last Jewish revolt.

In 1917 Palestine included all of modern day Israel and Jordan. In the plan the Allies developed for dividing up the German and Turkish territories, Britain was allotted Palestine, and this is what prompted the Balfour Declaration. In that document, Lord Balfour, the British Foreign Secretary, (like our Secretary or State) declared that it was the intention of the British government to establish in Palestine "a national home for the Jewish people."

The Balfour Declaration November 2, 1917

During the First World War, British policy became gradually committed to the idea of establishing a Jewish home in Palestine (Eretz Yisrael). After discussions in the British Cabinet, and consultation with Zionist leaders, the decision was made known in the form of a letter by Arthur James Lord Balfour to Lord Rothschild, president of the British Zionist Federation. **The letter represents the first political recognition of Zionist aims by a Great Power.**

Foreign Office
November 2nd, 1917

Dear Lord Rothschild,

I have much pleasure in conveying to you, on behalf of His Majesty's Government, the following declaration of sympathy with Jewish Zionist aspirations which has been submitted to, and approved by, the Cabinet.
"His Majesty's Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country."

I should be grateful if you would bring this declaration to the knowledge of the Zionist Federation.

Yours sincerely,

Arthur James Balfour

The leading Evangelical in England at the time was F. B. Meyer. He immediately recognized the prophetic significance of the Declaration, as he was well aware that the Scriptures prophesy that the Jewish people will be regathered to their homeland right before the return of the Messiah.

Isaiah 11:11-12 And it shall come to pass in that day, [that] the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. 12 And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.

Meyer sent out a letter to the Evangelical leaders of England asking them to gather in London in December to discuss the prophetic implications of the Balfour Declaration. In that letter, he stated, "**The signs of the times point toward the close of the time of the Gentiles... and the return of Jesus can be expected any moment.**" Before Meyer's meeting could be convened, another momentous event occurred. On December 11, 1917 General Edmund Allenby liberated the city of Jerusalem from 400 years of Turkish rule.

There is no doubt that these events in 1917 marked the beginning of the end times because they led to the worldwide regathering of the Jewish people to their homeland and the reestablishment of their state. **On May 15, 1948, the Nation of Israel was formally created.**

Isaiah 66:8 Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? [or] shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children.

Let's look at this in light of 20th Century history.

Shall a nation be born at once?

Yes! That day was may 15, 1948.

for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children.

The travail of Zion, I believe, was the pain of the Nazi attempt to exterminate the Jewish people. The Nation of Israel was founded only three years after the end of World War II.

I have a theory... "the gospel according to Harold." When Satan realized that there was a possibility that the Jewish nation would be reconstituted, he put into the heart of Hitler to destroy the Jewish people.

1923-24 In his book, Mein Kampf, Hitler divides humans into categories based on physical appearance, establishing higher and lower orders, or types of humans. At the top, according to Hitler, is the Germanic man with his fair skin, blond hair and blue eyes. Hitler refers to this type of person as an Aryan. He asserts that the Aryan is the supreme form of human, or master race.

And so it follows in Hitler's thinking, if there is a supreme form of human, then there must be others less than supreme or racially inferior. Hitler assigns this position to Jews as well as the Czechs, Poles, and Russians.

But it is the Jews, Hitler says, who are engaged in a conspiracy to keep this ***master race from assuming its rightful position as rulers of the world***

The ruler of this world, the Prince of the Air is none other than Satan, himself.

Ephesians 2:1-3 And you [hath he quickened], who were dead in trespasses and sins; 2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: 3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

The beginning of the beginning of the end.

Now, many of us that have spent time studying the prophecies, believe that the Return of Christ is very near. There are many signs that parallel the Scripture predictions. I want us to spend some time looking at those signs. When we agree, my prayer is that we will see the urgency.

The Signs

Jesus is speaking to His disciples just before the final Passover. He is responding to their questions about when He will return.

Luke 21:11 And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven.

Matthew 24:6-12 And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all [these things] must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

Matthew 24:7 For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.

Matthew 24:8 All these [are] the beginning of sorrows.

Matthew 24:9 Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.

Matthew 24:10 And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.

Matthew 24:11 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.

Matthew 24:12 And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.

Wars

Matthew 24:6-12 And ye shall hear of **wars and rumours of wars**

No period witnessed the escalation of wars as the 20th Century did. The Red Cross has estimated that over 100 million people were killed in wars the 20th Century. Up until 1914, war had never been universal, but in both World War 1 & 2, total war was waged.

In **1948**, the *aliyah* occurred, when the Jews came from all nations of the world to return to the Covenant Land of Israel. In **1967**, the Jews regained control of Jerusalem. From 1948 until the present, there has not been a single day in which international and/or civil war has not occurred somewhere in the world.

Every calendar day since May, 1948 has had major wars (Korean and Vietnam Wars, as two examples), civil unrest throughout the world (revolutions and citizen uprisings), and rumors of war (including the Cold War and terrorism threats). Major world powers and third world nations bristle with nuclear warhead-tipped missiles. The world could erupt into nuclear warfare with little provocation.

Since World War II, the war that was supposed to make the world safe for democracy, there have been numerous major wars & hundreds of rebellions & revolutions. **The death toll in conflicts since the end of World War II has now topped 23 million.**

November 1989 the opening of the Berlin Wall was supposed to symbolize the end of the Cold War between the Superpowers...But instead of the expected peace, more "wars & rumors of wars" raged around our planet. In 1993 a record 29 major wars were fought.

"Nation rising against nation, & kingdom against kingdom" could more accurately be translated as "ethnic group rising against ethnic group"--a prophecy dreadfully fulfilled in former Yugoslavia, Rwanda & other trouble spots around the World. Not only are "wars & rumors of wars" on the increase, but also the horrors that wars unleash.

We have become numb to news of atrocities & tortures, mass rape & murder, which show what horrible savagery modern man is still capable of when he is unrestrained by God.

Iran longs for war: A major threat to world peace is Iran, which possesses missiles and is developing (or, has?) nuclear weapons. Iran hates Israel with religious zeal. Most importantly, Iran is led by an apocalyptic Muslim, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad who believes his mission in life is to cause worldwide conflict to hasten the return of Islam's "savior" and "messiah," the twelfth Imam, the Mahdi. Nothing would be a greater honor to this man than to cause worldwide turmoil, because he believes the Mahdi will come only during such a time.

Russia restarts the Cold War: After a few years of relative quiet, Russia is now making moves to become a world power and re-kindle the Cold War. Through aggressive development of weapons, deployment of weapons and troops, and harsh rhetoric, Russia leaves no doubt of her hatred for the West, especially America and Israel.

Jesus' prophecy of end-time warfare was broader than wars in recent experience. His terminology would include groups of people without national borders (al Qaeda or Hamas terrorists, for example.) "Rumors" aptly describes modern times. In Jesus' time, news traveled as fast as a man could walk from one village to another and was mostly limited to people groups living near trade

routes. In our time, we have 24-hour news channels, which communicate news and rumors of news to us by satellite in real time from every part of the world. We hear and see news-- including violence and threats of violence-- as it actually occurs.

Famines

Matthew 24:7 For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be **famines**

20th century

1. 1907 famine in east-central China
2. 1914-1918 Mount Lebanon famine during World War I which **killed about a third of the population**
3. 1914-1918 famine in Belgium
4. 1915-1916 Armenian Genocide. Armenian deportees starved to death
5. 1916-1917 famine caused by the British blockade of Germany in WWI; up to **750,000 Germans starved to death**
6. 1916-1917 winter famine in Russia
7. 1917-1919 famine in Persia. As much as **1/4 of the population living in the north of Iran died in the famine**
8. 1917-1921 a series of famines in Turkestan at the time of the Bolshevik revolution **killed about a sixth of the population**
9. 1921 famine in Russia killed **5 million**
10. 1921-1922 Famine in Tatarstan
11. 1921-1922 famine in Volga German colonies in Russia. **One-third of the entire population perished**
12. 1928-1929 famine in northern China. The drought resulted in **3 million deaths**
13. 1928-1929 famine in Ruanda-Burundi, causing large migrations to the Congo
14. 1932-1933 Soviet famine in Ukraine, some parts of Russia and North Caucasus area. As many as **10 million people may have died**
15. 1932-1933 famine in Kazakhstan killed **1.2-1.5 million**
16. 1936 famine in China, with an estimated **5 million fatalities**
17. 1940-1943 famine in Warsaw Ghetto
18. 1941-44 Leningrad famine caused by a 900-day blockade by Nazi and Finnish troops. About **one million Leningrad residents starved**, froze, or were bombed to death in the winter of 1941-42, when supply routes to the city were cut off and temperatures dropped to -40 degrees.
19. 1941-1942 famine in Greece caused by Nazi occupation. An estimated **300,000 people perished**
20. 1942-1943 famine killed **one million in China**
21. 1943 famine in Bengal
22. 1943 famine in Ruanda-Urundi, causing migrations to the Congo

23. 1944 famine in the Netherlands during World War II, more than **20,000 deaths**
24. 1945 famine in Vietnam
25. 1946-1947 famine in Soviet Union **killed 1-1.5 million**
26. 1958 Famine in Tigray, Ethiopia, claimed 100,000 lives
27. 1959-1961 Great Leap Forward / The Great Chinese Famine (China). The official statistic is **20 million deaths**, as given by Hu Yaobang
28. 1965-1967 drought in India responsible for **1.5 million deaths**
29. 1966 famine in Bihar, India
30. 1967-1970 Biafran famine caused by Nigerian blockade
31. 1968-1972 Sahel drought created a famine that **killed a million people**
32. 1973 famine in Ethiopia; failure of the government to handle this crisis led to fall of Haile Selassie and to Derg rule
33. 1974 famine in Bangladesh
34. 1975-1979 Khmer Rouge. An estimated **2 million Cambodians lost their lives to murder, forced labor and famine**
35. 1980 famine in Karamoja, Uganda
36. 1984 famine in Ethiopia
37. 1990-2003 Iraq has faced famine conditions since 1990. The Iraq sanctions resulted in high rates of malnutrition. Between **200,000 and 1 million excess deaths.**
38. 1991-1993 Somalian famine
39. 1996 North Korean famine. Scholars estimate **600,000 died** of starvation (other estimates range from 200,000 to 3.5 million).
40. 1998 famine in Sudan caused by war and drought
41. 1998 ENSO famine in Northeastern Brazil
42. 1998-2000 famine in Ethiopia. The situation worsened by Eritrean-Ethiopian War
43. 1998-2004 Second Congo War. **3.8 million people died**, mostly from starvation and disease
44. 2000-2009 Zimbabwe's food crisis

21st century

1. 2003- famine in Sudan/Darfur (Darfur conflict)
2. 2005 Malawi food crisis
3. 2005-06 Niger food crisis
4. 2006 Horn of Africa food crisis
5. 2008- Myanmar food crisis. The Cyclone Nargis devastated Burma's major rice-producing region.
6. 2008- North Korean famine
7. 2008- Horn of Africa food crisis
8. 2008- Afghanistan food crisis
9. 2008- Bangladesh food crisis
10. 2008- East Africa food crisis
11. 2008- Tajikistan food crisis
12. 2009- Kenya food crisis 10 million Kenyans face starvation.

- The world population has grown tremendously over the past two thousand years. In 1999, the world population passed the six billion mark. Latest official world population estimate, for mid-year 2009, is estimated at 6,790,062,216. The world's population will reach 7 billion in 2012, even as the global community struggles to satisfy its appetite for natural resources, according to a new government projection. As our world population grows, it is clear that it will be a great challenge to feed all those people.
- Every day around 24,000 people die directly from hunger or hunger related diseases - an unbelievable amount. In the Asian, African and Latin American countries, well over 500 million people are living in what the World Bank has called "absolute poverty"
- Every year 15 million children die of hunger
- The World Health Organization estimates that one-third of the world is well-fed, one-third is under-fed one-third is starving
- One in twelve people worldwide is malnourished, including 160 million children under the age of 5. United Nations Food and Agriculture. Nearly one in four people, 1.3 billion live on less than \$1 per day. 3 billion people in the world today struggle to survive on US\$2/day.
- One out of every eight children under the age of twelve in the U.S. goes to bed hungry every night. Half of all children under five years of age in South Asia and one third of those in sub-Saharan Africa are malnourished. Malnutrition is implicated in more than half of all child deaths worldwide.
- About 183 million children weigh less than they should for their age
- Every 3.6 seconds someone dies of hunger

Pestilences

[Matthew 24:7](#) For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and **pestilences**

Pestilence is any infectious disease that develops and spreads rapidly to many people.

Modern science seems to have eliminated the fear of plague, but today we are on the verge of a deadly scourge that could kill more people than have ever been killed in all the pestilences yet known to man--it is the plague of AIDS. In

1993 AIDS became the leading cause of death of U.S. males between the ages of 20 and 45.

Worldwide:

- Over 22 million people have died from AIDS.
- Over 42 million people are living with HIV/AIDS
- Over 19 million women are living with HIV/AIDS.
- By the year 2010, five countries (Ethiopia, Nigeria, China, India, and Russia) with 40 percent of the world's population will add 50 to 75 million infected people to the worldwide pool of HIV disease.
- There are 14,000 new infections every day. HIV/AIDS is a "disease of young people" with half of the 5 million new infections each year occurring among people ages 15 to 24.
- The UN estimates that, currently, there are 14 million AIDS orphans and that by 2010 there will be 25 million.

Virtually unheard of among our ancestors, over 100 different kinds of cancer now kill over 5 million people every year

In many countries and diseases once thought banished by modern science have made an alarming comeback. Epidemics of typhoid, diphtheria, and even the Black Death, have afflicted areas of India and the former Soviet Union. Deadly new strains of Malaria, Tuberculosis and Cholera are becoming resistant to all known anti-biotics and are killing millions of people.

Even the common bacteria that causes pneumonia, children's ear infections and many other every day diseases are evolving into forms untreatable by all known medicines, threatening a chilling post-antibiotic era where even the simplest infections could quickly escalate into fatal diseases.

Oct. 8, 2008 - Veterinary scientists from the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) warn that the "deadly dozen" diseases known to affect both humans and wildlife are spreading.

Ebola, cholera, plague and sleeping sickness were among those identified yesterday by as spreading across the planet because of climate change. The scientists said that wildlife could give an early warning of the approach of diseases and save millions of people.

Source: TimesOnline - UK

Feb. 15, 2008 - According to a Nobel prize-winning biologist, no real progress has been made in the search for a HIV vaccine after 20 years of research. Professor David Baltimore, who is president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, said that scientists are losing

hope. Attempts to control the virus through antibodies or by boosting the body's immune system have ended in failure.

This has left the vaccine community depressed because they can see no hopeful way of success, Prof Baltimore said.

Source: BBC

Feb. 16, 2006 - The Australia-based Lowy Institute think tank admits that it is still unknown whether or not a bird flue pandemic might occur, or where it might begin. If it does develop, even a "mild pandemic" (similar to the 1968-69 Hong Kong flu) could kill 1.4 million people. **In the worst-case scenario 142 million people could die.**

Source: CNN

TUBERCULOSIS. Measles. Scarlet Fever. Diphtheria. Syphilis. All of these diseases were once thought to be under control, if not eradicated. Now some of them have reached epidemic proportions in the United States, and the others are gaining.

Across the country, epidemiologists, the detectives of disease, are trying to figure out why these diseases are returning. "The ideal would be to find a single cause of things," said Dr. Thomas R. Frieden, a New York-based epidemiologist for the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta. "But it's not as simple as that. It's multifactorial."

Our ability to travel from the most remote areas of earth to the most populated has never been greater. A person infected with a communicable disease can get on a jet anywhere in the world and travel to some place else infecting those on the plane and carrying the disease to the new location. The following is just one example.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Bureau of Consular Affairs

This information is current as of, Mon Jun 08, 2009.

Mexico - H1N1 Lifted May 15, 2009

The Department of State wishes to inform U.S. citizens traveling to and residing in Mexico that on May 15 2009, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) lifted its recommendation that American citizens avoid all nonessential travel to Mexico. As a result of the CDC's decision, the State Department's Travel Alert relating to the 2009-H1N1 influenza outbreak is no longer in effect.

The CDC continues to suggest precautions that travelers and U.S. citizens resident in Mexico (especially those at high risk for complications of influenza) should take to reduce their risk of

infection while in Mexico; provides recommendations for those who must travel to an area where cases of 2009-H1N1 influenza have been reported; and recommends measures travelers should take following their return from an area that has reported cases of 2009-H1N1 influenza.

There is great concern among healthcare officials about world wide pandemic for Bird Flu, Swine Flu, SARS or some, yet unidentified, communicable disease.

Earthquakes

Matthew 24:7 For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, **and earthquakes, in divers places.**

This category of signs has always been the least respected, even among believers. There have always been earthquakes.

Hal Lindsey, the world's best known Bible prophecy teacher and author of 17 books on prophecy, writes in one of his latest books:

"Earthquakes continue to increase in frequency and intensity, just as the Bible predicts for the last days before the return of Christ. History shows that the number of killer quakes remained fairly constant until the 1950s - averaging between two to four per decade. In the 1950s, there were nine. In the 1960s, there were 13. In the 1970s, there were 51. In the 1980s, there were 86. From 1990 through 1996, there have been more than 150."

An earthquake registering between 6.0 and 6.9 could be considered fairly major. Above 7.0, the earthquake is considered more serious, with a larger area of damage anticipated.

DATES FROM & TO	PERIOD	EARTHQUAKES (Mag. > 6.99)
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1863 to 1900	38 yrs	12
1901 to 1938	38 yrs	53
1939 to 1976	38 yrs	71
1977 to 2014	38 yrs	136 (to Jan. 2009) predict >180 total.