

End of Time Study

God's call to urgency

In our last session, we discussed why we believe we are at the beginning of the end. I lead through the miracle of the reconstructed Jewish nation. Then, we looked at the Olivet Discourse of Jesus, his private briefing for his disciples as written in Matthew, chapter 24. You will recall we looked at the increase of wars and rumors of wars, famines, pestilences and earthquakes. As if this was not enough to convince us that we are at the beginning of the end, we will look at even more evidence.

The Signs given to Daniel

Daniel 12:1-4 And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation [even] to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. 2 And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame [and] everlasting contempt. 3 And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever. 4 **But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, [even] to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.**

God inspired His prophet Daniel to give two indicators of the close of the age and the coming establishment of His Kingdom. "But you, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book [**so no one could understand its meaning**], even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro [world travel], and KNOWLEDGE shall be increased."

We can look around and see tremendous progress since the 1890s in automotive production, steam engines, and the discovery of flight. We have seen interstate highways built and quick travel between cities. We have seen the good and devastating effects of flight – passenger flights and war machines to kill! We are living in "The Information Age" making this sign seem even more obvious. Even the most skeptical mind must admit that knowledge is exploding in all directions. Every minute we add 2000 pages to man's scientific knowledge, and the scientific material they produce every 24 hours would take one person 5 years to read. About a half-million new books are published every year. It is said that 80% percent of the world's total knowledge has been brought forth in the last decade and that 90% percent of all the scientists and engineers who have ever

lived are alive today. **If you got a birthday card that plays a tune, you would have more computer power than existed in the whole world in 1950.**

The Signs of Society

2 Timothy 3:1-7 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. 2 For men shall be **lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,** 3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, 3:4 Traitors, heady, high minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; 3:5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. 6 For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, Timothy 3:7 Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

This passage sounds like a typical evening newscast today! Notice the three things it says people will love in the end times: self, money, and pleasure. Like the days of the Judges in the Old Testament, people are doing what is right in their own eyes, and the result is that people are calling evil good and good evil.

Proverbs 30:11-12 [There is] a generation [that] curseth their father, and doth not bless their mother. 12 [There is] a generation [that are] pure in their own eyes, and [yet] is not washed from their filthiness.

Isaiah 5:20 Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

The love of self is Humanism — the belief that Man can accomplish anything on his own. The love of money is Materialism. When Humanism is your religion, your god will always be money. The love of pleasure is the third love that is mentioned. This is Hedonism, the lifestyle that is always produced by Humanism and Materialism.

Our world is wallowing in despair today. We live in a society plagued by abortion, homosexuality, domestic violence, child molestation, blasphemy, pornography, alcoholism, drug abuse and gambling.

Breakdown in the Family

Consider each child conceived in the U.S. today. Let's see what happens to 100 of these new babies.

1 in four are aborted, leaving 75 to be born.
Of the 75, four in 10 are taken home where there is no husband, leaving 45.
Of the 45, approximately half will see a divorce before age 18, leaving 23.

Of the 23, approximately 1 in 3 is in a dysfunctional family where mental illness, emotional disability, or alcohol or drug use is present, leaving 14. Of the 14, approximately 2 in 3 do not attend church, leaving only 5 of the 100 raised in a solid, Christian home.

Demanding to Be Served

2 Timothy 3:3 **Without natural affection**, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

Gay Activists and Religious Freedom (Breakpoint May 13, 2009)

eHarmony is a popular online dating service designed by **Neil Clark Warren, an evangelical Christian psychologist**. The site claims that, on average, 236 eHarmony members marry every day. That's good news.

The bad news is that, in 2005, a man claimed the company violated his rights by not offering a matchmaking service to homosexuals. He lodged a complaint with the New Jersey attorney general, who found probable cause that eHarmony had violated state anti-discrimination laws. eHarmony vigorously disagreed.

Nevertheless, last year, eHarmony agreed to develop a matchmaking service for same-sex couples—and pay \$55,000 in fines.

From the Office of the President of the United States LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER PRIDE MONTH, 2009

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA A
PROCLAMATION

Forty years ago, patrons and supporters of the Stonewall Inn in New York City resisted police harassment that had become all too common for members of the **lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender** (LGBT) community. Out of this resistance, the LGBT rights movement in America was born. During LGBT Pride Month, we commemorate the events of June 1969 and commit to achieving equal justice under law for LGBT Americans.

LGBT Americans have made, and continue to make, great and lasting contributions that continue to strengthen the fabric of American society. There are many well-respected LGBT leaders in all professional fields, including the arts and business communities. LGBT Americans also mobilized the Nation to respond to the domestic

HIV/AIDS epidemic and have played a vital role in broadening this country's response to the HIV pandemic.

Due in no small part to the determination and dedication of the LGBT rights movement, more LGBT Americans are living their lives openly today than ever before. **I am proud to be the first President to appoint openly LGBT candidates to Senate-confirmed positions in the first 100 days of an Administration.** These individuals embody the best qualities we seek in public servants, and across my Administration -- in both the White House and the Federal agencies -- openly LGBT employees are doing their jobs with distinction and professionalism.

The LGBT rights movement has achieved great progress, but there is more work to be done. LGBT youth should feel safe to learn without the fear of harassment, and LGBT families and seniors should be allowed to live their lives with dignity and respect.

My Administration has partnered with the LGBT community to advance a wide range of initiatives. At the international level, I have joined efforts at the United Nations to decriminalize homosexuality around the world. **Here at home, I continue to support measures to bring the full spectrum of equal rights to LGBT Americans.** These measures include enhancing hate crimes laws, supporting civil unions and Federal rights for LGBT couples, outlawing discrimination in the workplace, **ensuring adoption rights**, and ending the existing "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy in a way that strengthens our Armed Forces and our national security. We must also commit ourselves to fighting the HIV/AIDS epidemic by both reducing the number of HIV infections and providing care and support services to people living with HIV/AIDS across the United States.

These issues affect not only the LGBT community, but also our entire Nation. As long as the promise of equality for all remains unfulfilled, all Americans are affected. If we can work together to advance the principles upon which our Nation was founded, every American will benefit. During LGBT Pride Month, I call upon the LGBT community, the Congress, and the American people to work together to promote equal rights for all, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim June 2009 as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month. I call upon the people of the United States to turn back discrimination and prejudice everywhere it exists.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of June, in the year of our Lord two thousand nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-third.

BARACK OBAMA

When the argument for gay marriage first came into the political forefront one of the arguments against it was that it would open the door to other nontraditional marriages. This was dismissed by the liberal pinheads as fear mongering and just a tool for the anti gay marriage groups to support gay marriage bans. but guess what? It was true!

First came traditional marriage. Then, gay marriage. Now, there's a movement combining both—simultaneously.

Maine became the fifth state, and the fourth in New England, to legalize gay marriage. The Maui-based World Polyamory Association, is pushing for the next frontier of less-traditional codified relationships. This community has even come up with a name for what the rest of the world generally would call a committed threesome: the "triad."

Strictly translated, polyamory means "many loves"; a polyamorous person is someone who loves more than one significant other, spouse, boy/girlfriend, or lover.

Less than 18 months ago, Sasha Lessin and Janet Kira Lessin gathered before their friends near their home in Maui, and proclaimed their love for one another. Nothing unusual about that—Sasha, 68, and Janet, 55—were legally married in 2000. Rather, this public commitment ceremony was designed to also bind them to Shivaya, their new 60-something "husband." Says Sasha: "I want to walk down the street hand in hand in hand in hand and live together openly and proclaim our relationship. But also to have all those survivor and visitation rights and tax breaks and everything like that."

According to Robyn Trask, the executive director of Loving More, a nonprofit organization in Colorado, about 25 percent of the **estimated 50,000 self-identified polyamorists** in the U.S. live together in semi-wedded bliss. A disproportionate number of them are baby boomers.

Now there is a push for Triad Marriage! Now just what is triad marriage? Well the first thing that came to my mind when I first heard the term was a threesome.

The warning that gay marriage would lead to other nontraditional marriages was very true with the recent news that triad marriage groups are now seeking recognition in the United States.

In addition to all of this, there are now ad's on tv and the internet for products that would make all of us blush. The point is that self-indulgent sex seems to be in the forefront of our society.

The Spiritual Signs

There are more signs in this category than any other. Many are evil in nature, but there are also some very positive ones. Some of the negative spiritual signs that are specifically prophesied include the following: false christs, cultic groups, heresies, apostasy, skepticism, deception, occultism, and persecution.

2 Timothy 4:3-4 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; 4 And they shall turn away [their] ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

Matthew 24:9-14 **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.** 10 And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. 11 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. 12 And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. 13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. 14 And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

The 20th century may have been the most striking in the annals of Christian martyrdom. In the two millennia of Christian history, about 70 million faithful have given their lives for the faith, and of these, 45.5 million -- fully 65% -- were in the last century, according to some authorities. Modern statistics of total Christian martyrs are estimated to total around 70 Million. Claims that the current average number of Christian martyrs per year are 176,000.

11 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.

The one that Jesus mentioned most frequently was false christs and their cultic groups. In fulfillment of this prophecy, we have experienced an explosion of cults since 1850.

Some have presented an educated estimate of cult numbers based upon experience and personal records. They has set the upper figure of cults in the

United States at around 5,000. Let us assume that suburban Boston and the San Francisco Bay Area are roughly representative of the United States as a whole. Now if we multiply 1% times 8 million, we get 80,000 high school students in cults and if we multiply by 3% we get 240,000 high school students in cults. 80,000 to 240,000, may seem on the high side but could actually be on the low side. Many cult adherents don't know that they are in a cult and would tend to under-report.

But, we are told that there will be some very positive spiritual signs in the end times. The most important one that is prophesied in many places is a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Joel 2:28-32 And it shall come to pass afterward, [that] I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: 29 And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit. 30 And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. 31 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come. 32 And it shall come to pass, [that] whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call.

This outpouring began at the dawn of the 20th Century, and proved to be one of the greatest spiritual surprises — and blessings — of the century. You see, when that century began, the prevailing viewpoint among both Catholics and Protestants regarding the Holy Spirit was **Cessationism**. This view held that the gifts of the Spirit ceased when the last Apostle died. In effect, it was a belief that the Holy Spirit had retired in the First Century.

The 20th Century had hardly gotten started when a Holy Spirit revival broke out at a small Bible college in Topeka, Kansas in 1901. Three years later, a similar Holy Spirit revival swept Wales and began to spread worldwide. Then, in 1906, the Spirit fell with great power on a humble Black preacher in Los Angeles named William J. Seymour. The Azusa Street Revival, as it came to be called, continued for four years and gave birth to the Pentecostal Movement.

The Bible prophesies two great outpourings of the Spirit and symbolically pictures them as the "early and latter rains", based on the two rainy seasons of Israel. The early rain occurred at Pentecost in the First Century when the Church was established. The latter rain was prophesied to occur after the Jewish people had been re-established in their homeland

Joel 2:23 Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come

down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first [month].

The latter rain began with the Pentecostal Movement, just as God began to regather the Jews to their homeland. But the rain did not become a downpour until after the re-establishment of the state of Israel in May of 1948, just as prophesied by Joel.

First came the anointing of Billy Graham's ministry in 1949, followed by the Charismatic Movement of the 1960's. Today, most of Christianity, whether Pentecostal, Charismatic, or Traditional, fully recognizes that the ministry of the Holy Spirit is alive and well in Spirit-led worship, the continuing validity of spiritual gifts, the reality of spiritual warfare, and the importance of a Spirit-filled life in winning that warfare.

Another remarkable positive sign is the understanding of Bible prophecy. The Hebrew prophets often did not understand the end time prophecies that the Lord gave to them. A good example can be found in Daniel where the prophet complains to the Lord that he does not understand the prophecies that have been entrusted to him.

Daniel 12:8-9 And I heard, but I understood not: then said I, O my Lord, what [shall be] the end of these [things]? 9 And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words [are] closed up and sealed till the time of the end.

In other words, the Bible teaches that many of the end time prophecies will not be understood until the time comes for them to be fulfilled. And that is exactly what has been happening in the past 100 years. Historical developments and scientific inventions are now making it possible for us to understand end time prophecies that have never been understood before.

Take Israel for example. All of end time prophecy revolves around the nation of Israel. But how could those prophecies be understood as long as Israel did not exist and there was no prospect that the nation would ever exist again? This is the reason that Hal Lindsey's book, *The Late Great Planet Earth*, became such a phenomenal bestseller in the 1970's. **For the first time it explained the events prophesied in the book of Revelation in natural terms that people could easily understand.**

The Signs of World Politics

The Bible prophesies a very specific end time configuration of world politics. Israel is pictured as being re-established and surrounded by hostile Arab neighbors intent on its destruction. This, of course has been the situation in the Middle East since the Israeli Declaration of Independence in May of 1948.

Daniel 2:36-45 This [is] the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king. 37 Thou, O king, [art] a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory. 38 And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou [art] this head of gold. 39 And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth. 40 And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all [things]: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise. 41 And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. 42 And [as] the toes of the feet [were] part of iron, and part of clay, [so] the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken. 43 And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay. 44 And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, [but] it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. 45 Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream [is] certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.

Daniel prophesied that the Roman Empire would be revived, something many men — like Charlemagne, Napoleon, and Hitler — tried to do through force. But the prophecy had to await God's timing for its fulfillment, and that came after World War II, with the formation of the European Common Market that has since morphed into the superpower called the European Union.

Daniel, the young Hebrew prophet, asked for and received permission to interpret the king's dream of a gigantic metallic statue of a man. History has proven, to the satisfaction of most Bible scholars who study prophecy in depth, that the first four world kingdoms prophesied through Nebuchadnezzar's dream have come and gone. Nebuchadnezzar's Babylonian kingdom was the first. The Medes and Persians comprised the second world empire. The Greek Empire under Alexander the Great was the third. The Roman Empire, which split into two, with capitals in Rome and Constantinople (now Istanbul, Turkey), was the fourth great world kingdom. The final world kingdom would be shown as the statue's feet made of iron mixed with clay.

History has proven, to the satisfaction of most Bible scholars who study prophecy in depth, that the first four world kingdoms prophesied through Nebuchadnezzar's dream have come and gone. One is left to come. The final world governmental system represented in Nebuchadnezzar's prophetic dream as the feet and toes made of iron mixed with clay. This final world kingdom, we

believe, is far along in the process of coming together today in the form of the European Union (EU). The fifth world empire symbolized in the statue is prophesied to be an extension of the fourth kingdom. That is exactly what the EU is 'an extension of the ancient Roman Empire. It is, we are convinced, the feet and toes of the man-image, the reviving of the unity that was once Europe in all its power and glory. Yet, despite the tremendous power the final form of the Roman Empire will have, the clay mixed with the iron seems to indicate it will have significant weaknesses.

Daniel 9:20-27 And whiles I [was] speaking, and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God for the holy mountain of my God; 21 Yea, whiles I [was] speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation. Daniel 9:22 And he informed [me], and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding. 23 At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to shew [thee]; for thou [art] greatly beloved: therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision. 24 Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy. 25 Know therefore and understand, [that] from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince [shall be] seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. 26 And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof [shall be] with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. 27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make [it] desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

This all-encompassing prophecy foretells plainly that the final world ruler, Antichrist, will rise out of the Roman Empire. Jerusalem and the Temple were destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD under the leadership of Roman General Titus. The future Roman leader ('the prince that shall come') is prophesied to be a dictator like no other in history.

This 'prince that shall come' will come as a peacemaker, confirming a covenant of peace with Israel. He will, at the halfway point in the seven-year peace agreement, invade the Jews' Temple and destroy their worship. Thus will begin the great tribulation, or 'Jacob's trouble,' the last three and one-half years of the seven years of Daniel's seventieth week (the tribulation era).

The EU has now begun the process that will give it a leader like none other. This news item encapsulates the search for such a man:

Convention backs Blair's plan for EU presidency.

Tony Blair's plans for a powerful new full-time president of Europe look set to become reality after the man charged with drafting a European Union constitution backed the project yesterday.

Val'ry Giscard d'Estaing, the former French President who chairs the convention on Europe's future, supported the EU's biggest member states who argue that the Union needs a president if it is to punch its weight on the international stage'

' [d'Estaing] noted that two smaller states, Denmark and Sweden, had just swung behind the idea, which originated in London but was first publicly proposed by President Chirac of France. A new president would be elected by heads of government of EU members and would hold office for five years. The creation of such a post would help to settle the decades-old question posed by Henry Kissinger of whom to call in Europe in an emergency. It could also help to prevent a repetition of the bitter arguments that erupted over Iraq'

The prophetic tide rolls toward an unsuspecting world. Breaking news, however, should not surprise Christians. We are told to watch for the nearness of Christ's return in many places throughout the Bible.