

Are We Coming to the End of the World? Part 3

Text: Matthew 24:3

Just for review:

6. UNMITIGATED INIQUITY AND MARTYRDOM

Matthew 24:9-13, 37

II Timothy 3:1-8

As we approach the return of Jesus, the environmental hostility to Christians will become dominant. Matthew 24:12: "And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold." Matthew 24:37 informs us, "But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." We read a description of the days of Noah before the flood in Genesis 6:5: "And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." As in the days of Noah, we see similarities displayed every night on the news.

7. SATURATION OF THE GOSPEL

Matthew 24:14

A wonderful prophecy will be fulfilled just before the Lord returns in glory, i.e., the Gospel of our Lord and Savior will be preached through the entire world. Revelation chapters 7 and 14 tell us of the 144,000 Jewish witnesses that become firebrands for the truth in the Messiah. They even have help in the midst of their martyrdom from an angel from Heaven. Revelation 14:5, 6: "And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God. And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people."

8. THE FINAL HOLOCAUST AND PROTECTION OF ISRAEL

Matthew 24:15-26; 32-34

Matt. 24:15: "When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)." See Daniel 9:24-27. It is imperative to remain friends with Israel.

Genesis 12:3: "And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed."

Genesis 21:12; Romans 9:7; Hebrews 11:18: "...in Isaac shall thy seed be called."

Genesis 28:13: "And, behold, the LORD stood above it [the ladder that ascended to Heaven] and said, I am the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed."

God will fulfill His promise to Abraham through Isaac and through Jacob (Israel). God will take care of those who take care of Israel. Blessings await those who befriend Israel, because the nations that are friends with Israel are partnering with God and His plans (Matthew 25:31-40).

As Israel grows in strength, the surrounding nations get more hostile. Ultimately, however, the promise of Israel's victory, i.e., the Battle of Armageddon, is prophesied in Zechariah 12:9: "And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem." Read Joel 3:1-16.

Case in point: Joseph is taken to Egypt. He falls in great favor with Pharaoh. Genesis 41:39, 40 tell us, "And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Forasmuch as God hath shewed thee all this, there is none so discreet and wise as thou art: Thou shalt be over my house, and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled: only in the throne will I be greater than thou." God blesses the world through Egypt in the fulfillment of Joseph's dream interpretations." Jacob, his sons and families come to the land of Goshen, the most fertile of Egypt's land is granted to them. Genesis 47:6, 27: "The land of Egypt is before thee; in the best of the land make thy father and brethren to dwell; in the land of Goshen let them dwell: and if thou knowest any men of activity among them, then make them rulers over my cattle. And Israel dwelt in the land of Egypt, in the country of Goshen; and they had possessions therein, and grew, and multiplied exceedingly."

A paradigm takes place: Acts 7:18b, 19 reads, "...Another king arose, which knew not Joseph. The same dealt subtilly with our kindred, and evil entreated our fathers, so that they cast out their young children, to the end they might not live." This Pharaoh, rather than showing favor to Israel, persecuted them. He decided to throw the male children born to the Jewish families into the Nile. God in return drowned Pharaoh's army in the Red Sea. In any dispensation it is true, the blessing is upon those who give favor to Israel, the curse is upon those who do not. Obadiah 1:15: "For the day of the LORD is near upon all the heathen: as thou hast done, it shall be done unto thee: thy reward shall return upon thine own head." Zechariah 2:8c: "...For he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye." Psalm 121:4: "Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep."

Conclusion:

Think of the prophetic impact of the Year of Jubilee described in Leviticus 25:10.

- A. The Balfour Declaration was a public statement issued by the British government in 1917 during the First World War announcing support for the establishment of a "national home for the Jewish people."
- B. Fifty years Later in 1967, In the Six Day War, Israel defeated the combined armies of Egypt, Syria and Jordan, securing much of the land promised to Israel in Genesis 18:18-21.
- C. Fifty years later in 2017 under President Trump's Admiration, Jerusalem is formally recognized as the capital of Israel. The American embassy was moved from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

I have long believed there is prophetic prescience in Genesis 25:9: "And his (Abraham's) sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him (Abraham) in the cave of Machpelah, in the field of Ephron the son of Zohar the Hittite, which is before Mamre." Once again in the long disputes of the two sons of Abraham, the remaining remnant of Israel and a

portion of the children of Ishmael will come together over Abraham. This past Thursday morning President Trump announced *The Abraham Accord*, in which Israel and the United Arab Emirates have agreed to “full normalization of relations.”

“...Even so, come, Lord Jesus” (Revelation 22:20b).

-Pastor Pope-