

RAP⁺TURE KIT



The material in this Rapture Kit is designed to inform, encourage, comfort, and advise. The material in this Rapture Kit will help you connect with the greatest source of help (Jesus Christ), find a new sense of hope and purpose, understand and navigate the trials and tribulations that are to come, and secure your eternal future.

Scripture promises that God is an “ever-present help in times of trouble” (Psalm 46:1), and that if “you seek Him, you will find Him, when you seek Him with all your heart” (Jeremiah 29:12-14). All is not lost! Jesus is just a prayer away.

Your path to peace and hope begins by opening your mind and heart to Jesus, praying, reading this material, watching the videos, and seeking God. Remember, the Lord loves you, and has a plan for you. Jesus came to earth, lived a difficult but perfect life, died on a cross and rose again, so that you can have the hope of eternal life.

We pray you receive His grace and promises today.

**BEFORE THE RAPTURE – You are highly encouraged to research, learn from, and absorb as many teachings and sermons as possible. Be voracious in your desire to learn!
Be very intentional!**

WARNING – Be aware that after the Church has been Raptured, conditions on the Earth will change extremely quickly. We have included a wealth of teaching and learning resources on this Rapture Kit so that you DO NOT need to rely on links that open up external resources. We do not want you to underestimate the global technological forces that will track, monitor, and potentially report your browsing history and interests.

**Be very, very careful, Brothers and Sisters...
for we wish no harm to you.**

"Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves." Matthew 10:16 NKJV

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Fear thou not;
for I am with thee: *Be not dismayed;*
for I am thy God:
I will strengthen thee;
yea, I will help thee;
YEA, I WILL UPHOLD THEE WITH THE RIGHT HAND
of my righteousness.
Isaiah 41:10

WHAT HAPPENED? WHERE DID EVERYBODY GO?

The *I Am A Watchman* ministry decided to prepare this writing in advance of a supernatural event which some now may be referring to as the *Rapture*, or the *Disappearances*. The goal is to provide those left behind with counsel and comfort. I imagine you have many questions—that you're frightened and anxious about what is going to happen next. The information in the Rapture Kit USB drive (and the IAmAWatchman.com website) should prove helpful in answering many of your questions.

This writing assumes that the following has happened: all of a sudden, without notice, millions of people vanished from the face of the earth. Christians refer to this event as the Rapture. The term Rapture is a Latin-based term Christians used to describe a sudden *catching up* or *taking away* of God's people. The term *God's people* is synonymous with the Church, Christians, the Bride of Christ, Believers, and devoted followers of Jesus. Vanishings will be reported in every nation, and it's likely that most if not all infants, toddlers, and children will now be gone.

In trying to understand what has happened, people will attempt to identify what was common amongst those who vanished. Did those who disappear have the same diet? Did they have a common virus, participate in the same kind of activities, go to the same kind of places, have the same kind of pet, or wear the same brand of clothing? I tell you, though few will accept it, there are only two common factors amongst the millions who have vanished. There are only two things that link the millions who, from every nation, every age group, every economic stratum, working in every kind of industry, having different kinds of health conditions and educational backgrounds—there are only two things common to all who vanished. They were either young and had hearts that were pure, or they were old enough to be responsible for their choices, and they chose to believe in God and his son Jesus, and they decided to as best they could not just believe in Him, but also to live for Him.

The *I Am A Watchman* ministry team was able to anticipate the Rapture because prophecies in the Bible noted that the event was coming. About a third of the Bible is prophetic in nature. There are more than 1000 prophecies in the Bible, and more than 90% have

been fulfilled exactly as foretold. The remaining 10% will be fulfilled exactly as foretold. Though many have tried, no Bible prophecy has ever been proven to be in error. The precision rate of Bible prophecy is unparalleled—the accuracy rate is 100%.

To illustrate the wonder of Bible prophecy let me note that Jesus, the Messiah, fulfilled more than 110 specific prophecies during his ministry on earth about 2000 years ago. And most of those prophecies were well outside a human's ability to control (such as Judas deciding to betray Jesus for 30 pieces of silver—that prophecy was penned more than 500 years before it was fulfilled and had to do with Judas meeting with the Pharisees—Jesus had nothing to do with those arrangements).

Statisticians note that the probability of Jesus being able to fulfill less than half of the prophecies attributed to him are about one in 10^{157} that number is statistically zero. It approximates the number of electrons in the entire universe. So, the statistical probability of one man fulfilling less than half of the prophecies attributed to him—less than 50 prophecies, is zero; and the Bible notes that more than 900 prophecies should've been fulfilled by this point in history. And they have. The biblical record of fulfilled prophecy is 100% accuracy.

I share this to help you better appreciate the wonder and the power of Scripture. So, if you have questions about what is to come, I encourage you to study Bible prophecy. The Bible is going to be your best source for answers in the days to come. *The Rapture Kit has an abundant set of resources that will help you learn more (without requiring an internet connection)!*

An understanding of Bible prophecy, and a prompting by the Holy Spirit led to the establishment of the *I Am A Watchman* ministry - a ministry designed to warn, equip, and encourage. It is why we prepared teaching videos and e- books, Bible studies and devotionals, research articles and blog pieces; it is why we developed a Facebook page and video channels, a devotional journal and the *I Am A Watchman* website. We have worked to encourage believers and warn the world that the Rapture, the Tribulation, the Antichrist, Armageddon, and the final judgment were coming.

We made provisions so that many online study resources will remain up for some time barring any new regulations prohibiting the posting of Christian material online. Though the Church is gone, many believers in Christ have made provisions to support, guide and encourage those who were left behind. I Am A Watchman resources are one such provision.

UNDERSTANDING THE *RAPTURE*

The term Rapture indicates a swift catching up or rescuing of God's people prior to the outpouring of God's wrath during the Tribulation. A time when Satan will greatly persecute the people of faith. The English term *Rapture* comes from 1 Thessalonians Chapter 4. The Greek text of the New Testament uses the word *harpazo*, and it means to seize upon with force or to catch or snatch up. The Latin translators of the Greek New Testament Bible translated that word, *harpazo*, *rapturo*. The Latin, *rapturo*, became the root word for the English term *Rapture*.

Through the Rapture, God has caught up his church so that they would not have to experience the upcoming time of tribulations and wrath. John, the writer of the book of Revelation, said it this way, The church will be "kept from the hour of testing that shall come upon the world" (Revelation 3:10). Paul, writing of the quick and sudden nature of the Rapture wrote,

"Behold I show you a mystery we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed. In a moment in the twinkling of an eye...for the trumpet shall sound and the dead shall be raised...and we shall be changed."

Writing to the Thessalonian Church, Paul wrote,

"For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout with the voice of the archangel and with the trump of God. And the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air."

This is what Jesus said about the Rapture.

- *"There will be two in the field, and then suddenly one will be left."*
- *"There will be two women grinding at the mill. One will be taken, and one will be left."*

In Luke 12 Jesus spoke of the importance of expecting His return. In Matthew 24 Jesus spoke of the need to be *watching and waiting and ready* for his return.

There are many allusions and references to the Rapture throughout the Bible. The fall Festival, the *Feast of Trumpets*, for example, foreshadows the Rapture event. The phrases, *no one knows the day or the hour* and *the thief in the night* are associated with that ancient Festival, as is the *blowing of the trumpet, the days of awe, and a new beginning for all humanity*. All of these associations have Rapture and tribulation connotations.

The Old Testament book, *The Songs of Solomon*, is about an unworthy bride being told to wait for the promised return of her wonderful Groom. However, she's unfaithful, and when He returns, she is not ready. He comes like a *thief in the night*, and she is left behind. Jesus's parable of the ten virgins and His teaching on the wedding banquet also reference the Rapture.

SCRIPTURAL SUPPORT FOR THE PRE-TRIBULATION RAPTURE VIEW

Historically, there have been three prominent views regarding the timing of the *Rapture*. The ***I Am A Watchman ministry*** concurs with the majority of Bible scholars and teaches that the church will be raptured (caught up to be with Christ) at some point **before** the commencement of the seven-year tribulation period. Noted below is the Biblical foundation for that position.

- The Tribulation describes a period of suffering unsurpassed, "such as was not since there was a nation, no, nor shall be" (Dan. 12:1). The Tribulation period will be a time of wrath (Rev. 6:16-17, 11:18; 14:19; Zeph. 1:15, 18). However, we see in 1 Thess. 5:9 that the Church is **not** appointed unto wrath, but

unto salvation. The *Rapture* was the Lord fulfilling His promise to rescue from a future time of 'wrath.'

The church will be "*kept from the hour of testing that shall come upon all the world.*" (Rev. 3:10)

- Scripture notes that the Holy Spirit **1)** dwells in the hearts of believers **2)** holds back or *restrains* Satan and **3)** will one day be taken away. The *taking away* of the Spirit/Restrainer points to the Rapture, as removing the Spirit will require removing committed Christians from the earth.

"And you know what restrains him [Satan] now...For...he [the Holy Spirit] who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way...." (2 Thess. 2:6-7)

This *taking away* of the Spirit is linked to the removal of the Church and the *Rapture* (1 Thessalonians 4:14-17).

- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 supports the pre-tribulation view:

*"But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this, we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent (precede) them which are asleep. **For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air:** and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words."*

- 1 Corinthians 15:51-55 supports the pre-tribulation view:

"Behold, I show you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of

*an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound,
and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be
changed."*

- Many Scriptures note the "Jewishness" of Tribulation events profiled in the Bible. It is said to be the "the time of Jacob's trouble," it concerns "Daniel's people," a "false Messiah," the city of Jerusalem, the twelve tribes of Israel, the "son of Moses," and a "flight on the Sabbath." The Church is not specifically mentioned in the book of Revelation after the judgments begin. The *I Am A Watchman* ministry taught that the Church was not specifically mentioned because it was to be raptured before of the Tribulation.
- Jesus' teaching on the end times (Matt. 24) indicates that the timing of the *Rapture* is immediately after the 'Birth Pains,' and *before* the beginning of the Tribulation.

*"Immediately after the distress of those days...he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds..."Now learn this lesson from 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. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. **Two men will be in the field; one will be taken, and the other left. Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken, and the other left.***

"Therefore, keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him." (Matt. 24:29-44)

Summary:

- The Rapture was foretold.
- The Rapture represents Jesus fulfilling His promise to come again (John 14:3; Acts 1:9) and rescue His people, the true Church, from the upcoming time of wrath (Rev. 3:10).
- **The call is to:**

- *Believe in Jesus. Accept Him in your heart as Lord and Savior. Commit to follow Him (John 1:12, 3:16; Rom. 10:9-10; Eph. 2:8-10)*
- *Watch for His "glorious appearing" at the end of the 7-year Tribulation period (Matt. 25:13; 24:42).*
- *Beware the Antichrist. Do not take the Mark of the Beast.*
- *Be active—do the right thing, the right way, with the right heart, and don't stop (Matt. 24:46; Gal. 6:90).*
- *Warn others—this is part of the "Great Commission" challenge (Matt. 28:18-20; Luke 12:8-9; 1 Peter 3:15).*

WHERE IS MY BABY OR MY PARENTS?

A note to parents who lost their children:

Dear mothers and fathers,

I am writing this letter in the hope it will provide information and comfort. If you are reading this and the *Rapture* has taken place, I imagine you are shaken and grieving because the unthinkable has happened. The world is in chaos; anguish is everywhere, but all of that pales in comparison to what you are feeling: your worst fear has been realized and in your very own home.

Your child is missing.

Dear mothers and fathers, know that this mother weeps for you. I know the pain is unbearable, and your arms are empty. You would give your life to have your child back. You would move the earth to hold your babe again.

There is *still hope*.

The event that has happened all over the world was the fulfillment of Bible prophecy known as *The Rapture*. Believers in Christ from all over the world were taken by Jesus to escape the coming trials of the Tribulation Period (or End Times events). Innocent babies were taken as well.

Why was my baby taken?

If your child is missing, they were taken because they already made a commitment to follow Christ, or they were under the age of accountability. This would mean they had no sin in their heart and no ability to decide to follow Christ or not. The believers and the

innocent were recognized by Christ and *protected* from the dark days to come. This includes your child.

Where is my baby?

Your baby is safe in heaven, surrounded by the love of God and everything he or she will ever need. This is difficult to understand. You may be thinking, *How can anywhere be safer than in my arms?* God knows your heart and your pain, and He knows what is best, and the unprecedented events that are to come will reveal how His Kingdom is the better place to be. Your child is in the absolute safest place, without fear, and without pain.

Can I get my baby back?

No, but there is a way for you to be *reunited* with your child. Try to find some comfort in that your child will never know the pain and suffering associated with this world. You must be strong in the days to come and focus on the hope that is promised in Jesus Christ, so you can receive the same gift of eternal life and be reunited with your child. The Bible tells us in many ways that we will recognize each other in heaven. With that knowledge, we can find comfort knowing that when we arrive, there will be great rejoicing and a great reunion.

What do I have to do to be reunited with my child in heaven?

Though you may feel your world is collapsing, there is a life raft in the midst of this storm. The greatest gift of all is available to you and just waiting for you to seize it. It is the gift of eternal life in heaven with Christ, where your precious child currently resides. Salvation is one decision away.

Followers of Christ are forgiven, restored into right relationship with God, sealed by the Holy Spirit and promised eternal life with Jesus in His heavenly Kingdom. All who make decisions to believe in and follow Jesus will be there – and with them the innocents – including your baby.

The love of God and sacrifice of Jesus at Calvary makes salvation possible. How wonderful it is to have the hope of heaven when our world is so dark.

You can begin your new life in faith by praying a simple prayer of commitment to God. God through Jesus Christ offers grace, forgiveness, hope, purpose, love, and eternal life. It is available to all, but not forced on any. Ask to receive His gift today.

Mothers and fathers have hope! Stay strong! Your beautiful child is safe and happy, surrounded by Christ and loving mothers and fathers who are gathered in golden fields waiting for you to arrive.

A note to older children who lost their parents:

Dear children,

I am writing this letter in the hope it will provide information and comfort. If you are reading this and the *Rapture* has taken place, I imagine you are very frightened and unsure of what's happening. The world is in chaos, and you can't find your parents.

I know the fear is real. You don't know what to do or where to turn.

Yet, there is *still hope*.

The event that has happened all over the world was the fulfillment of Bible prophecy known as *The Rapture*. Believers in Christ from all over the world were taken by Jesus to escape the world and the coming years. Your parents were believers too, which is why they were taken. Perhaps you disagreed or hadn't decided for yourself yet whether or not you wanted to follow Christ. This is why you are still here.

What do I do first?

Call, text and message any adult family member or friend who you trust. If you don't know their number, find your parent's cell phone and see if they have it stored. Keep calling until you reach someone you know and trust. Find a way for them to come and get you. Pack clothes and as much food and water as you can. Check the house for money, put it in a safe place, and bring this with you before you leave.

Why were my parents taken?

If one or both of your parents is missing, they were taken because they had committed to follow Christ. If your young sibling was taken, they were too young to decide for themselves and knowing

this; Christ brought them to heaven as well. The believers and the very young were recognized by Christ and *protected* from the difficult days ahead. This includes your parents.

Where is my family?

Your family members are safe in heaven. They felt no fear and no pain. They are surrounded by the love of God and everything they will ever need. This is difficult to understand. You may be thinking, *How can anywhere be better than with me?* Yet, God sees your heart and your fear and promises to be with those who love Him. There is still time for you to choose to follow Jesus and be protected by the safety and love that He offers to you. Your family is in the absolute safest place, without fear or pain.

Can I get my family back?

No, but there is a way for you to be *reunited* with your parents. You must be strong in the days to come and focus on the hope that is promised in Jesus Christ, so you can receive the same gift of eternal life and be reunited with your family. The Bible tells us in many ways we will recognize each other in heaven. With that knowledge, we can find comfort in knowing that when we arrive, there will be great rejoicing, and a great reunion with family members and loved ones.

What do I have to do to be reunited with my family in heaven?

Though you may feel lost, there is great hope for you. The greatest gift of all is available to you and just waiting for you to seize it. It is the gift of eternal life in heaven with Christ, where your family resides. Choosing to love and follow Jesus is one decision away.

Followers of Christ are forgiven, restored into right relationship with God, sealed by the Holy Spirit and promised eternal life with Jesus in His heavenly Kingdom. All who have made decisions to believe in and follow Jesus will be in heaven – including your family.

When Jesus died on a cross for all of our sins many years ago, He made it possible for us to be in Heaven with Him one day if we only choose to accept His gift of life. He even rose from the dead and is with us in all that we do! He is close and waiting for you to choose Him. How wonderful it is to have the hope of heaven when our world feels scary.

Are you ready to make the decision your parents made? It may seem difficult. It may seem scary. But you can choose Christ today. Information on how to receive God's free gift of salvation is provided in the next section.

You can begin a new life in the faith by praying a simple prayer of commitment to God. God offers grace, forgiveness, hope, purpose, love, and eternal life. It is available to all, but not forced on any. Ask to receive His gift today.

Dear children, have hope. Stay strong. Seek members of your family who are still here. Your parents are safe, surrounded by Christ in golden fields waiting for you to arrive one day. You can see them again.

Jesus
*Salvation is found in no one else,
for there is no other name
under heaven given to men
by which we must be saved.*
Acts 4:12

WHY AM I STILL HERE?

Millions of people have disappeared. Maybe your loved ones and friends are among them. The previous articles note what has happened, and where loved ones are. This article will address the very delicate question: *Why wasn't I taken?* Does the fact that you were not taken in the Rapture indicate that you are a bad person? No. The Bible teaches that all have sinned—none are worthy. There's no doubt that right now, some people on earth are truly evil, but it is also true that some on earth right now are good, kind, wise, and loving. Those taken into heaven in the Rapture were not better than those who were left behind, but those who were taken in the Rapture had their sins forgiven.

It is common to think that *good people go to heaven*. That's not quite accurate. It is true that those whom God allows to enter heaven will have good hearts and will have done some good things, but being good is not good enough. God is not looking to see who is good, He's looking to see who was perfect. Who is without blemish? Who has confessed their sins to Jesus Christ, been forgiven by Him, and walk in relationship with Him? God is pure, holy, and perfect, and can only be in union with that which is also pure, holy, and perfect. Because humanity is prone to sin, God sent His Son Jesus to come and live a perfect life and die on the cross to make atonement for the sins of all who acknowledge their wrongs and commit to believe in and follow Him.

True believers *in* Christ, and followers *of* Christ, have their sins forgiven and, from a spiritual point of view, *are* made perfect. Believers then express their gratitude for God's grace by committing to follow the example set by Christ, who loved others, served others, witnessed to others, and in short, did many good things. So those who were taken into heaven in the Rapture were not taken because they were good, they were taken because they were believers in Jesus Christ, had their sins forgiven, and had demonstrated their faith in Jesus by doing good things.

Some may ask: *If it is true that only Christians were taken, then why are so many churchgoers still here?* Let me answer that question by sharing what Jesus said it would be like at the time of the final judgment (which by the way has not happened yet. That will happen at the end of time). Beginning in Matthew 7:21 we read these words: "*Not everyone who says to me Lord, Lord will*

enter into the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my father who is in heaven." Clearly, it is not about what we say, or what we think. It's about what we do and how we live. Verse 22: *"On that day many will say to me Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do mighty works in your name...then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you depart from me you workers of lawlessness.'"*

Sobering words.

It is possible for individuals to be involved in, and surrounded by, spiritual things; to be a regular church attender and giver, but still not forgiven, and not really in relationship with God. They know *about* God, but that's different than being in relationship *with* God, through His Son Jesus. As I noted earlier, none of those things affect the forgiveness of sins or will make you perfect—only being in relationship with Jesus Christ can do that. Only Jesus can make you perfect, and perfection is the requisite to salvation. We are not saved by doing good things, no matter how good they are, we are saved through and only through an act of faith in Jesus.

And true believers *more* than just believe. In James 2:19 we read, *"You believe that God is one [which is to say, you believe that God has manifested himself as God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit] then you do well [that's a good beginning in your understanding]. But even the demons believe that, and they shudder."* Those who enter heaven will need to demonstrate a higher level of faith than the demons. A true believer will make God first in their life, and they will strive to learn and grow in their faith. They will share their faith, and serve others, sacrificially give, and with all their might follow God's leading. Followers of Christ are not perfect from a human point of view. I am not perfect. I'm far from it, but in Christ my sins have been forgiven and yours can be too.

Some may be thinking *I'm a good person and a good God would not leave me behind, take some of my friends and family members, and do all of this without warning—that does not seem fair.* Let me state that what God has done, and what God always does, *is* fair. God *is* good, and there *was* warning. In John 3:16 we read, *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only*

son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." Only a good God would do that.

Through the ages God, through patriarchs, judges, kings, and prophets, through His Son, through the Holy Spirit, through His Word—through the ages God has reached out to humanity, helped humanity, spoken to humanity, intervened for humanity, and pleaded with humanity to acknowledge and follow Him. Romans 5:8 notes: "God demonstrated his own love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us."

Through prophecies and promises God warned that a *Rapture* was coming. He urged humanity to be spiritually ready for it. Yes, God *is* fair, and the fact that the Rapture happened simply proves that God is true to his word. But take heart—there is good news. God *still* cares for humanity, and though the hour is very late there is yet an opportunity for *you* to be saved and assured of your place in heaven and glory in the eternal age to come. That option *is* available to you, but living as a true believer at this time in history will not be easy.

You must be willing to live for Jesus and be a witness for Jesus through a dark period of history known as the Tribulation. The material in the Rapture Kit USB drive, and the material in the *What the Post-Rapture World and Church Will Look Like*, will help you know what the best next steps are.

God cares for you and has inspired the I Am A Watchman ministry to provide these resources so that you will know what to do, what is coming, and how to prepare for the future.

The most important decision you must make right now is what you will do about Jesus. Do you believe? Will you commit to follow and serve Him? Will you confess your sins to Him? Despite the difficulties you are facing (and will face in the years to come), there is Hope. His name is Jesus Christ! He will be with you, He will help you, and He will reward all who are courageous and faithful to Him.

HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN

Noted below is a simple, four-step plan to receive Christ. Some refer to this process as being *saved* (1 John 2:2; Acts 4:12) or *born again* (see John 3:3 and 2 Cor. 5:17). Born-again believers are disciples and followers of Christ. The courageous identify as **Watchmen** (see Ezek. 33:1-9). Those who believe in Jesus Christ, are *saved* by Jesus Christ. They are forgiven of their sins and assured of eternal life in heaven. *A teaching on the subject of salvation can be found in Section 05 – Discipleship Study Materials in The Gift of Salvation – How to be Saved video teaching.*

Four Steps To Salvation

1. **Understand that God has not been first place in your life and ask Him to forgive your sins.** Scripture notes that God loves us and that Jesus will forgive the sins that are confessed to Him.
 - *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from every wrong." (1 John 1:9)*
2. **Believe that Jesus died to pay for your sins and that He rose again and is alive today.**
 - *"If you confess that Jesus is your Lord, and you believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." (Romans 10:9)*
3. **Accept God's gift of salvation.** Believe that God loves you. Believe that Jesus came and died for you. Believe that God's grace is greater than your sin. Do not let regret, bitterness, fear or shame keep you from falling into the loving arms of God.
 - *Remember, restoring our relationship with God is not based on anything we do, but on what Jesus already did for us!*
4. **Ask Jesus Christ to come into your heart and be Lord of your life.**

- *"To all who receive Him, He gives the right to become children of God." (John 1:12)*
- *[Jesus said] "Listen! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in." (Rev. 3:20)*

You can begin a new life in the faith by praying a simple prayer of commitment to God. A sample prayer is noted below:

"Dear Jesus, thank you for loving me, even when I've ignored You and have gone my own way. I realize I need You in my life and I'm sorry for my sins. I ask You to forgive me. Thank you for dying on the cross for me. Please help me to understand Your love, and Your will for my life, more and more. As much as I know how I want to follow You from now on. Please come into my life and make me a new person inside. I accept Your gift of salvation. Please help me to grow now as a Christian. Thank you, Jesus!"

IMPORTANT VERSES

John 3:16-17 Romans 3:23 Romans 6:23

Romans 10:9-10

Romans 10:17

2 Timothy 1:9-10

Hebrews 9:27-28

John 6:47 John 1:12

Ephesians 2:8-10

Romans 5:8

Titus 3:5-7

FALLING IN LOVE AGAIN

A devotional thought regarding rekindling faith

I closed my eyes against the night sky and listened to the wind rustling the tall grass.

Fall was in the air. The promise of it was in the morning fog that hugged the fields. The scent of it was on the aging leaves. I'd always loved the way the seasons changed.

It had been a hard few months, and now the days felt darker and the nights felt longer as I battled sleeplessness. I leaned back and listened to the wind. I opened my eyes, looked up at the heavens, and began to talk to the Maker. "*I miss you,*" I prayed.

"*I've been here,*" was the immediate reply, as clear as the glittering night sky.

I paused and rubbed my hands over my chilled arms. Was I the one who had put the distance between us?

My path had been muddy. I felt like a thirsty traveler, wandering just beside a washed-out mountain trail that I would follow to still waters if I could only remember the way.

My nights had been restless, and my prayers had started to drift apart.

How had I fallen away from my first love?

I could remember the butterflies. The thrill of conversation. The peace upon waking and going to sleep. The joy of being together. The strength that came from companionship.

I knew what it was like to fall in love. I wanted to feel it again.

I soaked in the soft light of the stars, silently opening the doors of my heart to Jesus once again.

I remembered the greatest love story ever written; a heart song penned in the pages of the Bible. That love story was about me. That love story was about all of us. Jesus was after my heart; He died for my soul. The Father desires a deep, lasting relationship with each of us – one that grows, changes, stretches, and breathes. He desires a relationship that is *alive*. I knew it. I know it.

But over the last few months, I'd started to withdraw into myself, killing my progress and putting a barrier between myself and my Maker. How could I tear that down? How could I start over and fall in love again?

I walked across the dark grass. *How do we fall for anyone?* I wondered. The answer appeared in my head like a star in the sky: by getting to know them. First, I had to rejoin the conversation: one that the Father started before I even walked this earth. *"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb"* (Psalm 139:13). He yearns for us to know Him. He's waiting for us to jump in, to open our hearts and our minds and speak to Him.

Matthew 7:7 notes, *"Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you."* If I wanted to change my relationship status, first I had to raise up my hand and knock.

Every earthly connection required work. I knew that the seeds of every relationship must be nurtured and cared for so that they could grow bloom and flourish. So why was it so hard to remember that the same was true in my heavenly relationship? How could I expect it to grow if I didn't water it with my attention?

Just as I committed to love and honor my earthly husband, I could choose to commit my life to the heavenly Father – to get on my knees and offer Him my heart and my soul. And just like any other relationship, this one would have its ups and downs because *I'm human* – I doubt, I falter, and I fail. But *He will never change*. Not when I'm in the valley or on the mountaintop. Not when I'm out in a dark field, throwing my heart into the sky.

Peace slowly began to rain down like shooting stars.

This relationship was a commitment I must choose to make not just once, but daily. I'd been so busy reaching out to take and wondering why I felt so lost that I had forgotten to *give* – give of my time, my attention, my very life. *My love.*

Jesus says in Matthew 16:24 that I must *take up my cross* and follow Him. Not pack my vacation suitcase and follow Him. Not get comfortable and follow Him. But *take up my cross*. Because a life of choosing Jesus first isn't always easy, but it is worth it.

Falling in love can be scary. Being vulnerable enough to entrust our hearts to another is the ultimate trust fall, yet Jesus promises to walk with us every step of the way.

I turned my feet towards the warm glow of my home behind me, feeling a glow starting deep within me.

If you go knocking, be prepared to fall in love. Be prepared to feel your heart transform as you get to know the Creator on a profoundly personal level. Love changes us.

Maybe you're in the valley, or maybe you're on the mountaintop. Maybe the seeds are dry, and just waiting for you to give them water. We're never too far gone to come back no matter where we are: He's there waiting. We can fall in love again and again and again.

So, raise up your hand and knock.

**WHEN WE FOCUS
ON THE GREAT
BARRIER**
BEFORE US

**WE
FORGET ABOUT
THE GREAT GOD
ABOVE US**

BEING A WITNESS FOR THE LORD

This article is a challenge—it is not for the faint of heart. Believers living in the post Rapture world will need to have formidable courage to fulfill their calling. The good news is, God will help you to be what He wants you to be.

The post-Rapture/Tribulation-era world will be the most dangerous time in history. As the seven-year Tribulation unfolds, war, pestilence, civil unrest, divine judgments, and severe oppression will sweep the earth. Laws will change. Christian literature and gatherings will be banned. Worshipping the Beast (Rev. 13) will be mandated. Refusing to recant Jesus will be punishable by death. It seems that the logical choice may be to run, hide, or build a bunker. And God may, in fact, direct groups of believers to flee and hide to escape the enemy (Rev. 12). However, my best guess is that during this unprecedented time in history, God will want believers to seek opportunities to proclaim His name boldly. I believe that in a dark world, Jesus will want believers to point individuals to the Light. Will you be a bold witness for Him?

Did you know that in the original text of the New Testament (Greek), the word *Christian* and the word *martyr* are related. At this point in history, the goal for believers should not be to start well—it should be to finish well. It should not be to live long; it must be to live-out their faith. It must not be, to be safe, it must be, to be a witness. Will there be a cost? Probably. But whatever is suffered or lost in this world in the name of Christ will be rewarded in the next. Yes, great will be the reward for those who demonstrate great faith and great courage.

Jesus calls **every** believer to share their faith. A Christian is not just a believer in Christ, they are a follower-of Christ, and must try to emulate the actions of Christ. In the early days of the New Testament Church, the term *Christian* was a pejorative—as in, those folks are crazy, acting *like Christ*. To be a Christian is to be Christ-like, and Jesus Christ was a great and powerful witness. The Apostle Paul wrote that all believers should be too. To inspire a young body of believers in Rome, he wrote, "*I am **not ashamed** of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes...*" (Romans 1:16). Dare to be bold for God. Ask Him to guide your steps and help you see opportunities to share your faith. Do not step in front of His leading, but courageously do what the Lord leads you to do.

Good Watchmen are good witnesses—they know how to share their faith and to do. What follows are a few suggestions regarding how to grow in being a witness for the Lord.

What To Know

- **All are called to serve and share.** Acts 1:8 notes that individuals receive the Holy Spirit so they can effectively *"....be [His] witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, and the uttermost parts of the earth."* Though the dynamics of the Spirit's working may be different now than it was before the Rapture, I believe God will still assist and empower believers to accomplish great things in these last days. Remember, you are assisted and saved, to serve and share. God expects believers to share the insight and grace they have received from Him.
- **Be courageous but be careful.** Most are aware that one of the early Christian symbols is the image of a fish (). What many do not know is that this symbol originated as a secret greeting—a way to identify whether or not a person you were talking to was a believer (an important question as ~~there~~ were times when being a Christian was considered a crime punishable by death). In an attempt to discern if a situation was safe to talk about one's faith openly, a careful individual would subtly sweep an arc (semi-circle) in the sand. If the person you were facing was a believer and it was safe to talk about Christ, they would repeat the action (completing the image of a fish), and the conversation would move forward. I am not suggesting that every believer share only with believers, and only when it is safe. I am, however, noting that there is a place for prudence. Be bold, but do not take unnecessary risks—particularly if you do not sense God's leading to do so. Jesus commended the shrewd steward (Luke 16) and urged His disciples to be *"wise as serpents and harmless as doves..."* (Matthew 10:16).
- **Know the time is short.** In most sports, if the clock is about to run out and points are needed, the coach will call a play requiring risk in an all-out effort to secure the win. Friends, it is important to realize that the hour is late. The Tribulation period will end seven years after the signing of a peace agreement between Israel and her enemies. After that time, the eternal

fate of all humans will forever be sealed. Do not delay in doing the work and sharing the message God has given you. Take advantage of every opportunity. *Please see the Wonders of Bible Prophecy series in Section 05 - Discipleship Study Materials folder and in Section 06 – What Tribulation Saints Need to Know for more information on the Tribulation, the Antichrist, and what is next on the prophetic timeline.*

- **Hospitality opens doors for witnessing.** We are to share the Gospel whenever and however the Lord leads. Opportunities can come at any time, and we are called to be ready for these unexpected opportunities to share. However, you can create excellent opportunities to share by showing initiative in the area of hospitality. You can create an opportunity for spiritual discussion by inviting a person over for a cup of coffee, or for a meal. The objective is to build relationships with those who do not yet believe in Christ and look for opportunities to share your faith.
- **You often have opportunities to share with those you serve.** Look for opportunities to help and serve. This may be someone who is ill or sad, or in need of assistance with a project. Be generous with your time. Invest in helping others as this will create platforms for witnessing. Remember, leading in kindness often leads to opportunities to share the Gospel.

What To Do

- **Pray for and spend time building relationships with those who are not saved.** We tend to *listen well* to the people we *know well*. This means, our evangelistic message will likely be best received by people who know us and trust us. This also means we must *make time* to build relationships with those who do not know the Lord to be well positioned to win them to the Lord. Begin with people you know. Believe that God has put a few individuals in your circle of influence so that you can witness to them. Pray and ask God to reveal to you who those people are. Ask God for wisdom to know how to invest your time and build relationships so there will be opportunities to share your faith.

- **Share what you know.** It is tempting to reason that you should leave witnessing to the *experts*. Many defer involvement in personal evangelism thinking that first they should feel more comfortable, memorize more Scripture, acquire more training, or have more answers at the ready. The desire to learn more is commendable, but do NOT allow that desire to keep you from your duty today. An amazing witness does not need to be astoundingly articulate; A powerful witness does not need to be extremely polished—the message just needs to be true, point to Jesus, and come from the heart. Jesus invited Andrew to learn more by simply saying, *"Come and see"* (John 1:39). The Samaritan woman in John 4 was a powerful witness by simply telling others about the amazing things Jesus did. The blind man in John 9 did not have theological training but his witness was powerful when he testified of how the Lord had been good to him saying, *"One thing I do know. I was blind, but now I see!"* Share what you know. Practice sharing your testimony—a short version (less than 90 seconds), and a longer version. *Look* for opportunities to share, for when you seek them, you will see them.
- **Do not be afraid to share but speak *in truth and love*.** In Proverbs 10:10a we are told, *"Whoever winks the eye causes trouble..."* Our culture suggests that in the name of tolerance and peace, we should ignore sinful behavior. Proverbs 10:10 notes that the opposite is true. Further, Proverbs 24:25 notes that *"...it will go well with those who convict the guilty..."*

Proverbs 24:25 is not a recommendation to condemn, reject, shame, or excommunicate, it indicates that we should care enough about the wayward brother or lost person to let them know what Jesus expects. One verse later we read: *"An honest answer [the truth] given is like a kiss of friendship"* (Proverbs, 24:26, NLT). A true friend will share about Jesus and His promised, imminent return. It is not OK to be judgmental, but when the motive is pure, and words are spoken in love, it *is* OK to make judgments about what is right and wrong and voice truth. This is the calling of a Watchman. For more information, see Section 08 – Additional Articles "Is it ever okay to Judge.pdf".

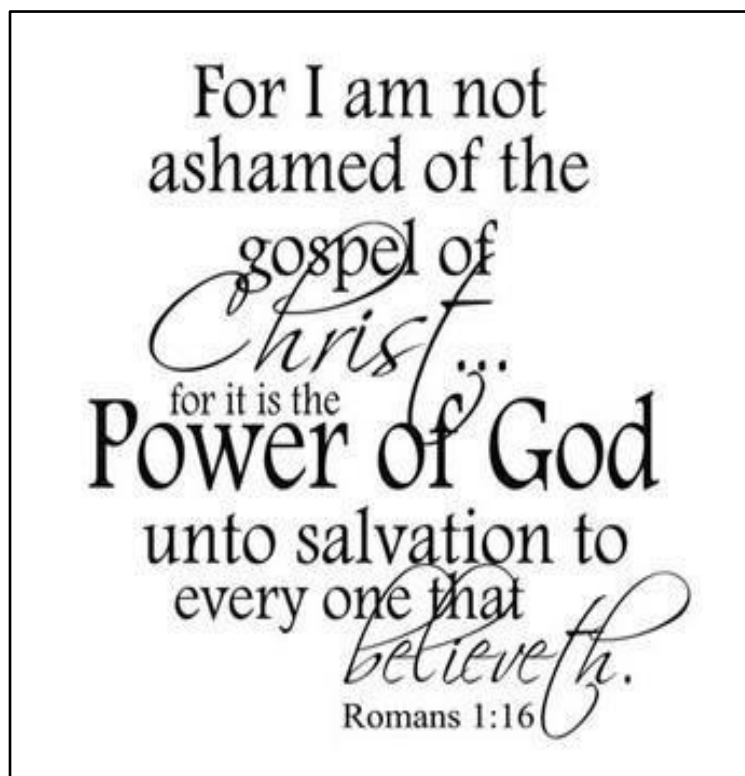
- **“Do the ask.”** Over the centuries many individuals (even preachers) did a fine job sharing *about* Jesus but fell short when it came to asking individuals if they are ready to surrender, confess, and enter into a relationship *with* Jesus. Watchmen will wisely and boldly *do the ask*. Pray and strive to be sensitive to the Spirit’s leading in this, but always be looking for that open door to ask, *“Are you ready to become a Christian?”* Then, of course, be prepared to clearly explain what that means and how that can be accomplished.
- **Prioritize knowing the Word and knowing how to respond to common spiritual questions.** 1 Peter 3:15 notes that believers are to *“...Be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.”* The 1 Peter 3:15 directive is for ALL believers (not just clergy). Believers must study the Word (2 Timothy 2:15), have it embedded in their heart (Psalm. 119:11) and be ready to share it (1 Peter 3:15). It is generally true that the more spiritual answers we can provide, the more compelling our witness will be. Commit to being a lifelong learner. This will honor God, support you in your spiritual walk, and strengthen your witness. *Noted below are a few links to video teachings and articles designed to help you know how to lead someone to Christ, and respond to common spiritual questions:*
 - A **document** on Salvation located in Section 08 – Additional Articles “How to Become a Christian”.
 - A **video teaching** on The Gift of Salvation – How to be Saved located in Section 05 – Discipleship Study Materials under the Gift of Salvation – How to be Saved folder.
 - A **three-part video teaching** entitled, *Reasons to Believe* located in Section 05 – Discipleship Study Materials under the Gift of Salvation – Reasons to Believe folder.
- **Consider if news headlines present an opportunity to witness.** In these last days many current events will tie into the fulfillment of biblical prophecy. Read “A Study on Bible Prophecy.pdf” located in Section 08 – Additional Articles folder. Then watch “The Wonder of Bible Prophecy (7 Parts) series in the Section 05 – Discipleship Study Materials to become aware of how current events lay a foundation for, or are the fulfillment

of, Bible prophecy. This is an age of skepticism; the vast majority doubt the integrity and reliability of the Bible. This is also an age when Bible prophecies are being fulfilled at a pace not seen in over 2000 years. Be aware of current events and become comfortable sharing how the fulfillment of prophecy proves the Bible is true. It will provide an open door for spiritual discussions and strengthen your witness.

- **Use social media to share God's message.** Be careful here—there are ways for individuals to identify who is posting and sending Christian content on most computers and phones. You need to make a risk/reward evaluation before making such decisions. However, prayerfully consider safe ways to utilize social media/online platforms to spread the Gospel. When posting, be wise and positive—do not use truth as a club. The goal here is to look for opportunities to post, comment, correct, inform, exhort, inspire, and encourage, all for the glory of God (1 Cor. 10:31-33).
- **Expect opposition.** Satan knows his time is short, and he is in a rage (Rev. 12:12). His minions spy to see who is serving and sharing. They will attempt to stop the work. Doubt and discouragement are two of Satan's favorite weapons. Do not let him steal your joy, slow you down, or hold you back from doing what God wants you to do. Consider this: If you were selected to be on a championship football team, suited up, walked on the field to play, and then came into possession of the ball, you would think it normal that members of the opposing team would chase you, try to tackle you or somehow stop you from completing your objective. And if in the game you were blocked, hit, pushed, or tackled and thrown to the ground, you would not cry foul, pout, run off the field, or tell the coach things were not fair and you wanted to quit. No, you would understand that this was all part of the game. Football players expect to be chased and hit by the opposing team. Believers should expect opposition too. Believers are not promised comfort or ease but *are* promised victory (1 Corinthians 15:57).
- **Expect God to move.** James 1:6-7 notes that believers should pray *expecting* that God will move. Yes, Satan will attack, but God will prevail. God has, and will continue to move on behalf of, and through, His people. We may not always be able to see His

working, but we can know He has a plan (Jeremiah 29:11) and He *is* at work (John 5:17b). Here is a link to a brief video teaching on Nehemiah and the importance of having faith and believing God for a miracle located in the Section 05 – Discipleship Study Materials folder called “Devotional on the Book of Nehemiah”.

- **Persevere.** Believe that Galatians 6:9 is true: *“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”*



STAY STRONG * RESIST THE ANTICHRIST * TRUST GOD IN EVERYTHING

This is far easier to write than it will be to live when the time comes. Much of this is arguable or speculation at this time. When the time comes, and the Antichrist appears, it will be criminally serious and lethal to resist. History is filled with evidence of what happens when you resist those with all the power, and it never goes well for the resisters. You must understand, resistance means you will become the hunted and hated enemy of the world system. Your life will become essentially an illegal underground existence. You will be hunted and persecuted for your disloyalty, disharmony, and resistance to what's best for the planet. You will not be alone.

You will be told you are the problem. You will be accused of crimes you did not commit, and the authorities will believe they are doing the right thing to threaten you. Life as you know it will change immediately and irreversibly, but you must stand on the truth of God's Word. *"Greater is He Who is in you than he who is in the world."* (1 John 4:4) You will be branded a traitor and worse. Friends and family may believe they are doing the right thing by turning you in for your defiance. They will likely be offered rewards for doing so. Eventually, the 'crime' of resistance will become punishable by death. Take heart, any difficulty or pressure or torture is better than being condemned to hell for eternity!

Resisting the Antichrist's world system will be difficult for many reasons. It may feel impossible, but don't quit. God is with you; you are not alone.

1. The Antichrist will be empowered by Satan. The devil will do everything he can to prove his power, and he has some power, but it's limited. He is not God. He cannot win. The ending of the book has already been written, but he will fight to take as many with him to hell as possible. Jesus warned, *"Do not be deceived..."* (Matt. 24:4)

2. Legions of demons will serve the Antichrist. They are spiritual beings: invisible, unrestricted by space or gravity, able to do "miracles." Don't be surprised all those superpowers from the movies are suddenly happening for real. Expect it, but do not be deceived. It is NOT GOD!
3. Many false christ's and deceivers will show up. They will be convincing, and because of the above items, they will seem to be like Jesus. They will convince many (Matt. 24:24-26), but you know the truth.
4. Technology will be controlled. Some speculate the mark may play a part; allowing those who have the mark to be tracked. Travel and commerce will be regulated, and facial recognition will be everywhere.
5. The Mark of the Beast will control human activity. **DO NOT ACCEPT THE MARK OF THE BEAST!** It is more than a mere sign of being a "good world citizen." The mark is part of the Antichrist's plan to control the world and all the people in it. Some part of the mark will affect you as a human being. Some scholars believe it will in some way be able to alter your human DNA and make it impossible for you to experience salvation since Christ died for humans, not hybrid trans-human beings.

Revelation 13:16,17 describes the Mark of the Beast. All official transactions, even to be paid at work, will require it. What is it? It's speculation and conjecture now. Bible teachers and technology experts admit there are just too many possibilities to know for sure. What may seem obvious and clear now, could be changed after the Rapture to make it seem innocent. God will give you the wisdom to see the mark for what it is - pray for wisdom.

This is an extremely serious topic – Please watch the video teaching titled "08 - The Mark of the Beast" located in Section 06 – What Tribulation Saints Need to Know.

6. Friends will turn against each other (Mark 13:12; Matt. 24:12; Luke 21:16). Do not trust anyone who aligns *in any way* with the Antichrist. Christians will identify themselves by relationship (1 John 3:14-18).
7. CAUTION - Anything and everything that is "*Official*" IS CORRUPT! If it can be controlled, it is, whether it be electronically, technologically, religiously, or economically. Movies and TV have made it seem "normal" to have someone watching our every move. At first, it was to catch criminals, but what happens when it's a crime to say Jesus is the only way to God and not the Antichrist? *"For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."* (1 Tim. 2:5)
8. The mark itself may be an electronic device, a tattoo, implanted chip, or an injected microscopic bio-ID. It's possible the mark may be an edited DNA marker that can literally alter your human DNA structure; making you "trans-human." You will be promised the mark will make you stronger, more intelligent, or disease immune. The mark will be passed off as a positive thing: "It's convenient. It's safe. It's your personal identity. Never carry cash again. Never be without your medical information." You will probably be told, "It can't be hacked because it's literally part of who you are!"

Some people will take the mark as a sign of allegiance to the new world order or the man who leads it. Taking the mark will prove their complete devotion to the Antichrist (Rev. 13:15-18). Others will be deceived into taking the mark (Rev. 19:20). But the Mark of the Beast is not harmless or simply "the way the world works now."

Revelation 14:10-14 makes it very clear. *"He also will drink the wine of God's wrath, poured full strength into the cup of His anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night, these*

worshippers of the beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name."

Hear this clearly – Anyone who receives the Mark of the Beast is eternally condemned to Hell. It doesn't get any clearer than that.

WILL THERE BE ANY SAFE PLACE FROM THE ANTICHRIST?

Yes. It appears there will be some places of refuge. Jesus spoke of the mountains of Judea at the time of the abomination of desolation:

"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) Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take anything out of his house: Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day: For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be." (Matt. 24:15-21, also Mark 13:14-19; Luke 21:20-23)

Revelation 12:6, 14-16 mentions that the 'woman' will find nourishment in the wilderness area for three and a half years ("*time, times, and a half a time*"). Where is that wilderness? Daniel 11:41 suggests the lands of Edom, Moab and Ammon will escape the Antichrist's attacks:

"He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon." Also, Jeremiah 31:1,2 says, "At the same time, says the Lord, will I be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be My people. Thus says the Lord, 'The people which were left of the sword found grace in the wilderness; even Israel, when I went to cause him to rest.'" The prophet Hosea says, "Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring

her into the wilderness, and speak comfort to her. And I will give her, her vineyards there, and the valley of Achor for a door of hope: and she shall sing there, as in the days of her youth, and as in the days when she came up out of the land of Egypt.” (Hosea 2:14,15)

These are all clearly locations in the Middle East, some in Israel, and some in surrounding areas like Egypt, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia. Petra (*Sela*, meaning “the rock”) in the country of Jordan and has been identified as a place of refuge and last stand for the Israelites (Isa. 16:1; 2 Kings 14:7).

It will be nearly impossible for Christians to travel internationally, at least without being tracked. Your best possibility for survival is to locate other Christians and help each other with food and shelter where you are. Survival techniques are included in this kit under the Section 04 – Books in a folder named Survival.

A WATCHMAN’S CALLING – ARE YOU CALLED?

Watchmen have a mission—a mission from God. They cannot be begged, bought, or guilted into the role. It is an objective, a Godly pursuit, a duty, and a profoundly personal mandate. They *need* to watch. They love their wall and the people who live within its gates. They love the King of their kingdom and want to serve Him in any way they can.

What *IS* a Watchman Calling?

What is a Watchman’s calling? What does that term *calling* mean? What if a Watchman is not sure he’s been ‘called’ – can he still be a Watchman? Good questions all. To discern the role of a modern-day Watchman, it would be good to look at what Watchmen did in the past.

Nowadays, a golden retriever could be trained to walk up and down a wall and bark if it sees strangers. A dog’s unaided vision is better than most humans. Its sense of smell is keener, and its hearing is far superior to most people. But a Watchman possessed traits no animal, no matter how instinctively superior, could ever have. For additional discussion about this topic, read “I Am A Watchman.pdf” in the Section 08 – Additional Articles folder.

Watchmen Then and Now

In the literal biblical sense, the job of a Watchman was likely mundane, monotonous, some days and nights it was just plain dull. So it would seem. The analogy is often drawn of an enemy and those who watch for the enemy – the watcher must be right 100% of the time. The enemy only has to be right once.

In our day and time, the military has tools such as night-vision goggles, infrared cameras; they even have weapons to detect weapons the opposing armies might be using. A Watchman in biblical times had no such luxuries.

Watchmen relied upon the keen-but-unaided vision of their naked eyes. Vision was, no doubt, one of the qualifying determinants of the position. A Watchman must see better, farther, more clearly and even more intuitively than others. It was quite indisputably, a matter of life or death. It was then, and it is today.

If you came to the Watchman Ministry knowing you are a Watchman or Watchwoman, you already understand the magnitude of the call. You do not need help sensing your calling—it already consumes you. You need guidance on *what to do* with that influence, and *how to do it*. You are not alone. Other Watchmen and Watchwomen around the world come here, it is truly a community of Watchmen.

I Want to Be a Watchman

Watchmen and Watchwomen have been called by God to serve in their position. It is a demanding endeavor. It is a service opportunity, not a hobby, and definitely not for the faint of heart. A Watchman is a formidable force for God in these last days, and that means he can expect opposition from a menacing enemy.

Watchmen are not Watchmen for the thrills or accolades or title. If you consider yourself a Watchman or Watchwoman you know what you signed up for and would quickly tell anyone who isn't ready for the job to serve God in some other fashion. This is not a calling for newborn Christians. Watchman work is next level Christianity (pun intended). If you plan to crawl up on a wall and be a voice against the enemy, you should know what the mission entails.

A Watchman Is

Someone with exceptionally clear vision – The telescoping lens we see in pirate movies wouldn't come along until many centuries after Nehemiah oversaw the rebuilding of Jerusalem's walls. Yet the Watchman was expected to see far off and discern friend from foe. 2 Samuel 18:24-27 records this insightful exchange between King David and the Watchman,

"Now David was sitting between the two gates, and the watchman went up to the roof of the gate by the wall, and when he lifted up his eyes and looked, he saw a man running alone. The watchman called out and told the king. And the king said, 'If he is alone, there is news in his mouth.'" And he drew nearer and nearer. The watchman saw another man running. And the watchman called to the gate and said, 'See, another man running alone!' The king said, 'He also brings news.'" The watchman said, 'I think the running of the first is like the running of Ahimaaz the son of Zadok.'" And the king said, 'He is a good man and comes with good news.'"

There are several lessons to be drawn from the exchange. For now, focus on the one – He can see from afar and recognizes what he sees. A person who can recognize Watchmen – Watchmen have keen senses, sharp vision, valuable insight, but also common sense. No Watchman serves alone.

There are 24 hours in the day. Every hour must be guarded, but God did not appoint one Watchman. It can be a lonely, dark, tense, and dangerous calling. Watchmen need other Watchmen to stay balanced and clear. Those who "go it alone" become exhausted and ambivalent, or worse – just plain weird. Those who constantly stand apart eventually fall apart. Lean on each other.

Someone who carries a more significant burden – cities, states, nations. Serving the Lord is not measured in acreage, but Watchmen do see farther from their vantage point on the wall. Because they shoulder such a burden, it affects how they view people. Watchmen know a person's spiritual condition in a few seconds of quick exchange. Others see their outfit, their car, their ethnicity; Watchmen see that too – but they focus on a person's spirit. Others who do not walk in this calling find that difficult – even impossible – to do. How can you understand a person's spiritual condition? Watchmen do.

Someone who answers only to God – Watchmen understand that the world, and even some fellow Christians, may not fully comprehend the calling to be a Watchman. They are undeterred by their lack of recognition. They serve in anonymity and obscurity, and they do so willingly.

Someone who sees the world from God's perspective – God sees sin. He knows there is evil in the world. He knows every detail of each person's life. Yet he responds in love to those who hate Him. "God so loved the world..." Watchmen love people, even people who hate God. Why? Because that's what God does, and that's what a Watchman does. His mission is to warn, not condemn.

Someone who hears from God – Many sermons and many books have tried to explain precisely what that means, "hear from God." Some of it has been beneficial to the Church, some not. Some of it has detracted from the message of the Gospel and convinced the unsaved world Christians are kooks. Watchmen hear that voice, immediately recognize it's God, and know what to do with what they're told. Sometimes it's appropriate to share that word from God, other times, no. God gives discernment with the word.

One of the "inner circle" who see the King's plans – Henry Blackaby, author of *Experiencing God*, says, "Seeing what God is doing is God's invitation to join Him." That does not mean Watchmen push their way into the plans, it means they are made aware. The King's plans often affect what the Watchman is looking for. Sometimes they're shown the King's plans because they play a role. Other times it's only to make them aware God is moving. Seeing what God is up to keeps a Watchman vigilant.

Someone who understands authority – A Watchmen "knows their place in a room." They speak when their opinion is requested. They understand, just because they are watchers, does not mean they're elevated in status, only in station. A Watchman is informed, prepared and capable of giving a report. Sometimes their report will influence those in authority, but that is not the goal. Watchmen are primarily called to watch. They're capable of holding authority, but they don't seek it. They allow God to make that determination.

NOTE: With all that Watchmen do they can become exhausted doing God's work. Now, as in Biblical times, Watchmen work in shifts. This is

imperative. YOU NEED REST! Resting is not rusting. Rest. Repair. Restore.

Watchmen can become overcommitted and under-rested. There's a word for that – stress. That combination leads to burnout. Burnout is not a badge of honor; it is a death sentence carried out in degrees. Take care of yourself: spiritually first, but also emotionally, physically, and mentally. For additional perspective on this topic, read "Watchmen Must Unplug – Here's Why" in Section 08 – Additional Articles.

Watchmen are connected with Watchman. Swap stories. Find out what's happening on their wall, ask for help. Watchmen know they are vulnerable. Those who attempt to serve alone are not lone rangers, they are lone targets.

In Nehemiah 4:19-20 the prophet is rallying the people who are working on the wall. He recognizes that the enemy could attack at any moment, and he has stationed Watchmen along the wall. The problem is, he needs all hands working on rebuilding the wall because the sooner the wall is finished, the safer they will all be. He needs more than Watchmen to warn when the enemy is approaching, he needs a wall to keep the enemy out.

Nehemiah analyzes the situation and determines the solution is to create more Watchmen *and* more workers by empowering every worker to do both; watch and work. Each worker is armed with both tools to build and weapons to fight, but there is a problem—it's a big wall, around an entire city, and the people are scattered. If the enemy is approaching from the South, how can one small team of workers possibly defend the South wall while the rest of the 'army' is spread across the North wall, and the East and the West?

Nehemiah called all the people together, city officials, elders, workers, and Watchmen and gave them all the same order.

"The work is great and extensive, and we are separated on the wall far from one another. In the place where you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally to us there. Our God will fight for us."

(Nehemiah 4:19-20) [NASB]

Maranatha to that day!

A WATCHMAN'S STRATEGY

Watchmen have a strategy. Strategy includes planning with a purpose; and preparing with passion. A Watchman knows his role is to warn the city in the event of an enemy attack, often a surprise attack. To accomplish his goal of protecting his city, a Watchman must operate with a strategy.

There are planners and then there are strategic thinkers. Planners make lists of tasks to be done. Strategic thinkers make lists too; lists of possible reasons they may need to accomplish an unstated task, and what gear they might need to succeed. Their thinking leads to a strategy which will give them a higher degree of success. All this is done while said task is yet to be assigned. The best football coaches are strategic thinkers. Their chances of victory depend upon their plan, their game plan, their strategy.

Game plans change depending upon the opponent. Some opponents are better at running the football. They are successful at it because their running back is faster and more efficient at avoiding tackles than the guys who try to catch and tackle him. Those teams pass the ball some, but they run more.

Some teams are better known for passing the ball. They succeed at it because they have receivers who are six-foot-eight. They can jump higher and outmaneuver the guys trying to keep them from catching the ball. They also run, but they're best at passing, so they pass more than they run.

Each team and each coach build a strategy based on their strengths, but they also consider their opponent's strengths and weaknesses.

A good coach prepares his team to win. A great coach also considers the many ways his opponent might win. The coach's strategy is a combination of 2 plans: Plan ONE – how to win; Plan TWO – how to make the opponent lose. To win, the coach will prepare his players—they exercise, learn the plays the coach creates, then practice those plays repeatedly until the players develop the ability to complete their individual part of the play to the absolute best of their ability.

Train, learn, practice, perform. Where is the word 'win?' There is no guarantee of victory, because while team A is training and learning and practicing and performing, so is team B. Each has a strategy to *win*, each also has a strategy to make their opponent *lose*.

Great coaches understand their opponent. What are their strengths? What are their weaknesses? What will it take to overcome their strengths and take advantage of their weaknesses? Ok, wonderful sports analogy, what does that have to do with A Watchman's strategy?

Watchmen face the world's deadliest enemy – Satan himself, and the demonic minions who work for him. He's more than an opponent. He is relentless, ruthless, and he does not play fair. He has many victories, and he has thousands of years more experience than any Watchman could accumulate.

What should a Watchman *DO*?

Stick to the PLAN. Our game plan is already written. It is simple and straightforward: "Be sober (*clear-headed and focused*), be vigilant (*wary*, even a little skeptical), because your adversary (more than opponent – enemy), the devil, walks about (skulks, sneaks, lurks) seeking whom he may devour. He is actively seeking targets to mock. NO – ***devour***" (1 Peter 5:8). What is our plan? Defense. Be sober (ready). Be vigilant (watchful). Know your enemy (ready-er than he is). In the event of overwhelming odds, build a team.

Be on the offensive. It's not enough to be *AGAINST* the devil. We must be *FOR* the unsaved world. "*God so loved the world...*" (John 3:16) The world is less interested in what we're against. We must understand the devil is against the unsaved as much as he is against Christians; he wants to indiscriminately "*...kill, steal and destroy.*" (John 10:10). In modern society, many are against something: players kneel, music is angry, Facebook is venomous, and Christians are unable to get along with each other. What are you for? Not sure? Check the "This We Believe" article in Section 08 – Additional Articles for more information. It's a good place to start.

Build a team. Christianity is a team sport. You face too many enemies, pitfalls, and temptations to go it alone. The Church in Acts grew and survived in the face of adversity because of their love for one another and sense of community.

Practice. The phrase "practice makes perfect" is incorrect. It should read, "Perfect practice makes perfect." Practice doing it the wrong way long enough and you'll become proficient ...and ineffective – but really good at it. That's where a strong community is critical. Find Watchmen

who know your calling, its struggles, and victories. Hang around people who win, and never stop learning – *"Study to show yourself approved a workman (or Watchman) who is unashamed..."* (1 Tim. 2:15).

Listen to the coach. The best athletes in the world have coaches. That's why they are the best. The top golfers in the world have coaches who, in many cases, cannot themselves do what they're coaching the player to do. Listen to podcasts of men and women of God who've been around a while. Don't be dissuaded because some people don't like them – imagine the 'reviews' Jesus would have gotten – but constant controversy is a sign of imbalance. Ask your community of Watchmen who coaches them.

Build muscle. Refuel. Repeat. Battle both sharpens your skills and gets you beat up and cut until you know when to punch and when to duck. (Ephesians 6:11-14) Learn how to use the Sword of God's Word—know who to cut and who to defend. You cannot over-train for Christianity, and definitely not for Watchman service. There are 16 characteristics that Faithful Watchmen share in common. Practice them. For more information on these attributes, refer to "16 Characteristics of a Faithful Watchman.pdf" in the Section 08 – Additional Articles folder.

Focus on the goal. The best athletes know there are more contests coming, but right here, right now is the only one I need to win. You don't have to win your way to watching, you have to watch and win at the same time. That's what strategy is – part winning, part making sure they lose. Will you always win? No. Will other Watchmen come to your aid? Yes, and be sure you become one of them for others. Paul wrote, *"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us"* (Hebrews 12:1,2)

There are many more skills you will develop as a Watchman. Many come only with time and practice. Some come with victories, some with defeats, some with time, many from other Watchmen who've been there and won that. Strategy is not only winning. Winning is a result of strategy. Watchmen stand. Watchmen see. Watchmen plan. Watchmen practice.

Watchmen strategize.



WHAT IS COMING?

A THREE-PART STUDY ON END TIME EVENTS

- 1. Prophecies Pertaining To The Tribulation Period**
- 2. The Antichrist**
- 3. A Profile Of Armageddon And The Gog-Magog Invasion**

Prophecies Pertaining To The Tribulation Period

The world is approaching a notable period of history—the Tribulation period. The Bible references the Tribulation by many names; Daniel's 70th week, the time of Jacob's sorrow, the time of God's wrath, etc. Jesus prophesied that it would be a time of unprecedented upheaval. Still, the Bible notes that in the midst of this dark season God will move. The Lord Jesus will come bringing His army of saints to win a great victory over the enemies of Israel and rescue all believers who were saved during the 7-year Tribulation period.

Some believe Bible prophecies regarding judgments appear to indicate God is angry or mean. However, the opposite is true. God is not angry—God warns whom He loves, and only as a last resort does He use drastic measures to prompt individuals to pursue a better path. This writer believes that if the world turned to Christ today, the prophesied future Tribulations would not occur. But God knows that humanity is willful and knows the choices they will make. Therefore, the prophecies will come true. In the last seven years of our history, God will bring tribulation and wrath to the earth. Why? To bring humanity to repentance and receive His offer of salvation. This article provides a biblically based overview of the Tribulations period events that are prophesied to come.

Tribulation Period Prophecies (not in strict chronological order)

Israel will enter into a peace treaty:

The Antichrist will impose a "*covenant with the many*" which will include Israel (Daniel 9:27; 8:23-25). It is this 'covenant' that initiates the seven-year Tribulation period.

Israel will be at peace and "without walls" before the invasion from the North and Gog-Magog war (Ezekiel 38-39). It is probable that this sense of security is the result of the peace covenant noted earlier. The invasion from the North will likely come after the mid-point of the Tribulation period.

Earthquakes: Great earthquakes will shake the world during the Tribulation period (Revelation 6:12, 8:5, 11:13, 16:18, etc.). *Note: The years leading up to the commencement of the Tribulation period will be marked by an increase in higher magnitude quakes.*

The third Temple will be built in Jerusalem: Daniel, Jesus, Paul, and John refer to a Temple being in Jerusalem in the last days. This event is referenced in Daniel 9:27, 12:11; Mark 13:14; 2 Thess. 2:4; and Revelation 11:1-2.

Temple sacrifices will be reinstituted in Israel in the last days. Daniel 9:27; 12:11, and Revelation 13 reference this. *The completion of the Temple and routine of daily sacrifices must be in place prior to the midpoint of the Tribulation.*

Temple sacrifices will be forbidden: At the mid-point of the Tribulation period, the Antichrist will seize control of the Temple, abruptly end the daily sacrifices, and proclaim himself to be God. (Revelation 13).

144,000 believers will be sealed by the Spirit: The Holy Spirit will "seal" 12,000 Jewish believers from each of the 12 tribes of Israel. This is very likely a symbolic number representing a vast and perfect number of believers God uses to evangelize the world (Rev. 7). Along with these sealed witnesses will come two great prophets (Rev. 11:3-14). These

prophets will preach with power for 42 months and then be put to death. Their deaths will be celebrated by many. Their bodies will lie in the street for three days, after which they will be miraculously resurrected and taken up into Heaven.

Revival: During the Tribulation, many will turn to Jesus (Revelation 7:9-17; Daniel 12:10; Zechariah 2:11; Isaiah 19:16-25).

Vegetation decimated: Revelation 8:7 notes that the first trumpet judgment will bring the destruction of 1/3 of all vegetation on Earth.

A meteor or comet falls into the sea: Revelation 8:8-9 notes that the second trumpet judgment facilitates something falling into the sea and destroying 1/3 of life in all seas.

Wormwood: Similar to the second trumpet judgment, the third trumpet judgment facilitates celestial objects falling to the earth causing fresh water to turn bitter (resulting in many deaths).

Reduction of light: The fourth trumpet judgment brings about a 1/3 reduction of light (from the sun, moon, and stars).

Tormenting creatures: The fifth trumpet judgment will bring scorpionlike creatures from the demon world. These creatures torment humanity, but they do not cause death. *Some suggest that these creatures will not be able to torment believers in Jesus Christ.*

Forced worship of Antichrist: 2 Thessalonians 2 and Revelation 13 note that the False Prophet will force all to worship the Antichrist. Failure to do so will result in starvation, ridicule, and death. Proof of allegiance to the Antichrist will include receiving a *mark* on the right hand or forehead. *Without the mark one will not be able to legally buy or sell anything.*

Sores on those who receive the mark: Revelation 16:1-2 notes that those who accept the mark of the Beast, signifying their worship of him, will contract painful sores (KJV reads, 'boils') on their body.

Refuge: Ancient Petra (located in Jordan) will become a place of refuge for believers (Isaiah 16:1-4; Matthew 24:16; Revelation 12:6,14).

A great army will advance from the east: The sixth trumpet announces the coming of a great army from the east (two hundred million men). This army advances toward Israel and leaves devastation in its wake (Rev. 9:13).

The Euphrates will be blocked or dried-up: The great river Euphrates will dry-up, allowing armies from the east to advance toward Israel (Rev.16:12).

The Antichrist will be wounded: Revelation 13 notes that the Antichrist will suffer a fatal wound to the head but will recover to the amazement of many—a happening which boosts his claim to deity.

The Woman Who Rides The Beast: Revelation 17 (and Jeremiah 50-51) notes the judgment on this *woman*—also called the *Whore of Babylon* and *Mystery Babylon*. This is the judgment of a nation, not an individual.

Life in seas and rivers dies: Revelation 16:3 indicates that remaining life in the sea dies as the second vial of judgment is poured out. The death toll is such that the oceans become as blood. *The third vial of judgment brings about the death of life in the rivers* (Rev. 16:4).

Scorching heat: The fourth vial of judgment brings scorching heat which causes misery and devastates vegetation.

Darkness: The fifth vial of judgment brings anomalous darkness and painful maladies, some translations read 'plagues.' (Revelation 16:10-11).

War: There will be a series of wars—the last great series of wars, are collectively referred to as the battle of Armageddon.

Victory: Though Israel will be surrounded and outnumbered by her enemies, God will intervene, and Israel will prevail in the battle of Armageddon. Satan and the False Prophet will be bound and thrown into the pit. Jesus Christ will begin His *Millennial Reign* and bring peace and justice to the earth. (Revelation 19-21).

Conflicts Associated With The Antichrist

Although the Antichrist will rise to world power through cunning, deception, and intrigue (Daniel 8:23), he will have to resort to military power to conquer the world.

Revelation 13:7 notes that the Antichrist will ultimately achieve "authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation." This authority will be achieved first through diplomacy and then through war. Revelation 6 records the outbreak of global war resulting in the deaths of one-fourth of humanity (Revelation 6:8).

"Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast (Satan's Antichrist) rising out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, (The book of Daniel explains these represent ten nations he will rule) and on his heads a blasphemous name...The dragon (Satan) gave him his power, his throne, and great authority." (Revelation 13:1,2)

"The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs (miracles), and lying wonders." (2 Thessalonians 2:9-10)

"It was granted to him to make war...and authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation." (Revelation 13:7)

Wars And Conflicts Arising During The Reign Of The Antichrist

Revelation 9 seems to indicate conventional, spiritual, and nuclear war (*nuclear because Rev. 8:7 states that the war will result in one-third of the earth being burned up, and Rev. 16:2-11 notes "loathsome and malignant" sores afflicting survivors*). The wars noted in Rev. 6, 8 and will result in the deaths of more than half of humanity. The army from the east mentioned in Rev. 9 is comprised of "200,000,000 men."

Rev. 12 Spiritual warfare – *past, present, and future.*

Rev. 12-13 Concerted oppression of all who believe in Jesus, Jews, and all who will not follow the Beast.

Some of the Jews in Israel will flee to a place in the "wilderness" where they will be supernaturally protected by God (Rev.12:13-14). Many

believe this hiding place will be the ancient city of Petra, located inside a box canyon in modern Jordan. There is good reason for this assumption because Daniel 11:41 notes the Antichrist will be prevented from conquering Jordan when it is part of an end time rebellion.

Zechariah 13:8 indicates that the Antichrist will kill two-thirds of the Jewish people during this time.

Revelation 12:17 notes that the Antichrist will also war against the "offspring" of Israel — namely, those "who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus." *This is a reference to those who accept Jesus as Lord during the Tribulation period.*

Revelation 7:9-14 pictures a great multitude of martyrs in Heaven. They are identified as "the ones coming out of the Great Tribulation..."

Revelation 17-18 *notes an attack on the Whore of Babylon (also called the woman who rides the beast)*. This is a nation or geopolitical religious and economic system that perpetrates evil but is antagonistic to the nations that support the Antichrist. Many believe Jeremiah 50-51 references God's judgment on this entity.

*"Then the angel said to me, "The waters you saw, where the prostitute sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and languages. The beast and the ten horns you saw will hate the prostitute. They will bring her to ruin and leave her naked; they will eat her flesh and burn her with fire. **For God has put it into their hearts to accomplish his purpose...**" (Revelation 17).*

Rev. 16-19 Battles of Armageddon. The invading armies will be supernaturally destroyed by God. It appears that just as the armies from the East and the North arrive in the Valley of Armageddon, the Lord appears, speaks a supernatural word, and enemy armies are instantly destroyed "with the breath of His mouth" (2 Thess. 2:8). Joel 3:16 notes that the Lord will "roar from Zion" and "utter His voice from Jerusalem." Isaiah 10:16 notes that the result will be "a wasting disease." Zech. 14:12 notes that there will be a plague that will cause the flesh of the soldiers "to rot while they stand on their feet. Their eyes will rot in their sockets, and their tongues will rot in their mouths." Revelation 19 notes that the Antichrist and False Prophet will be bound and thrown into the lake of fire for 1000 years following this defeat.

THE ANTICHRIST

The Antichrist is the Beast of the book of Revelation. He is evil personified indwelt by Satan, ruthless and intent on destroying all that God loves. A dichotomy of character will allow this monster to garner support and move into power. He will at once, charm the crowds while planning to kill millions. He will solve global problems and appear to be good, but his agenda is evil. The scope of the pain and suffering he will inflict on the world will have no equal. The Antichrist will be a man but will be indwelt by Satan. He will lead in brokering a peace covenant with Israel, but is not a man of peace and will, in fact, usher-in a period of war that will kill billions.

He is the personification of evil and a master of deception. Like a real life Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, or perhaps the nefarious Lex Luthor, he will be wise, polished, and professional, but malevolent and merciless.

The biblical foundation for the term Antichrist

An antichrist is one who opposes the will of Christ. However, during the Tribulation period, a great deceiver and enemy of Christ will appear (and reign) on the earth. This individual is known as the "*Abomination of Desolation*" and the *Antichrist*.

Before proceeding, it is important to clarify the term "antichrist." According to the epistles of John, an antichrist is one who opposes the teachings of Christ. In this sense, many can be *an antichrist*—in fact, anyone who hinders the 'Great Commission' work and opposes the things of God is an antichrist.

- *"...Many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and [an] antichrist" (2 John 7).*
- *"...Every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world" (1 John 4:3).*

However, Scripture notes that during the Tribulation period, a world leader will arise. The world will praise him for leading in brokering a peace covenant in the Middle East and solving many complex global

issues. In time he will gain control of global systems. Though he will claim to be divine, he is, in fact, a man indwelt by Satan. He is the Antichrist. This article will differentiate him from antichrists throughout history by referencing him with a capital "A" in his title.

The Timing of His Coming

*"The Spirit clearly says that in **later times** some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons" (1 Tim. 4:1).*

The Antichrist will initiate the seven-year Tribulation by confirming "a covenant" with Israel (Daniel 9:27).

His Character/Nature

The Antichrist will be a great deceiver. Displays of power, signs, and wonders will embolden his claim to be an agent of good (2 Thess. 2:9).

Scripture notes that seven kings or rulers will precede the Antichrist (Revelation 17:11 / Daniel 5). *The empire of the Antichrist will be similar to, but different from, past empires which embraced paganism and persecuted God's people.*

The Antichrist will be a man (Daniel 7:24-25).

The Antichrist will have a fierce countenance (Daniel 8:23). His appearance will be "stouter than his fellows" (Daniel 7:20). This can have several meanings. It could mean the Antichrist will be larger in stature than others, older than others, have a greater following than others, or is of higher military or political rank than others, or that he is viewed as being more qualified than others.

Peculiar Aspects to His Rule

The Antichrist will be supported by a miracle-working partner, known as the False Prophet (Revelation 13:11-12).

The Antichrist will be unusually wise and cunning (Daniel 8:23).

The Antichrist will prosper in everything that he does (Daniel 8:24).

The Antichrist will not regard the desire of women (Daniel 11:37). *He may like Hitler, present himself to be disinterested in relationships, or he may embrace homosexuality.*

The Antichrist will sit in the Temple in Jerusalem (sometimes called the third Temple) and claim to be God (2 Thessalonians 2:4).

The Antichrist "*will cause craft to prosper*" (Daniel 8:25). It is interesting to note the definition of the word "craft" here. The word in the original Hebrew text is mirmah (*meer-maw'*), meaning deceiving, fraud, deceit, false, guile, and treachery. These will be the hallmarks of his reign.

Revelation 17:8 notes that the Antichrist "*was, and is not, and yet is.*" Many believe this to be a reference to his overcoming an apparently fatal wound.

Some understand this to refer to his reviving a political career or empire.

"One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed. The world was filled with wonder and followed the beast" (Revelation 13:3)

The Early Years of His Rule

The Antichrist will arise from among ten kings (Daniel 7:8).

The Antichrist will oversee a ten-nation union, perhaps a form of a revived Roman Empire (Daniel 2:44).

The Antichrist will uproot three kings from the ten-nation union (Daniel 7:8).

The Antichrist will ascend to power on a platform of peace (Daniel 8:25).

The Antichrist will form a world government, which he will dominate (Revelation 13:1-2).

The Antichrist will rule a "*mighty and strong kingdom*" (Daniel 7:7).

The Antichrist will "*have power over all nations*" (Revelation 13:7).

The Antichrist will lead large armies (Daniel 11:31).

The Antichrist *"will plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain"* (Daniel 11:45). Perhaps the Antichrist will set up small fortifications between the sea and Jerusalem.

The Final Years of His Rule

The Antichrist will have an image made after him (Revelation 15:2).

The Antichrist will assume complete control over the world government 3 ½ years after he confirms the covenant with Israel. He then will continue to reign for 42 months (Revelation 13:5).

The Antichrist will endorse the setting-up of the "Abomination of Desolation" (an image unto himself that all are forced to worship). This event signals the beginning of the final 42 months, and the commencement of the period called the "Great Tribulation" (Dan. 9:27).

The Antichrist will forbid daily sacrifices in the Temple (Daniel 11:31).

The Antichrist will control the ability to buy and sell and force all to prove allegiance to him by taking the '*Mark of the Beast*' (Rev. 14:11). The antichrist will seek to kill Jews and Christians (Daniel 12:7). The Antichrist will wage war against Israel—culminating in the battles of Armageddon (Revelation 6-19).

The focus of his rage will be God's people, Israel and Jerusalem:
"Behold, a day is coming...when the nations [will] gather against Jerusalem to battle, and the city shall be taken and the houses plundered and the women raped. Half of the city shall go out into exile, but the rest of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then the Lord will go out and fight against those nations as when he fights on a day of battle..." (Zechariah 14:1-2).

The Fate of the Antichrist

The Antichrist will stand [fight] against the Prince of princes (Dan. 8:25).

Christ will consume the Antichrist, and all enemies of God with the "spirit of his mouth," which is the Word of God (2 Thessalonians 2:8).

The Antichrist will be "cast alive into the Lake of Fire" and bound for 1000 years (Rev. 19:20).

At the end of the 1000-year Millennium, the Antichrist will be released and will rally the disobedient on earth in one last desperate attempt to thwart the plan of God. He will be defeated. Then will come the final judgment and eternal reward for those who have put their faith in Christ (Rev. 20:7-15).

ARMAGEDDON AND THE GOG-MAGOG INVASION

The term Armageddon is one of the best known (and least understood) four syllable words in the Bible. Some suggest the term Armageddon references a battle profiled in the book of Revelation; others suggest it references two or more conflicts, separated by a thousand years. Some argue that Armageddon does not refer to a battle at all, but to a geographic location. Of those who believe it is a geographic location are two groups – one believes it is a valley; the other teaches it is a battle in the mountains. Others note that the Battle of Armageddon is linked to (and the same as) the conflicts mentioned in Psalm 83 and Isaiah 17, while still others link the Battle of Armageddon with the engagements mentioned in Ezekiel 38-39 (also called the Gog-Magog War). In this section I will provide an overview of pivotal battles noted in prophetic passages, and how these conflicts correlate with the Battle of Armageddon.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT? Satan loves confusion, doubt, and division. Those who do not know the truth are vulnerable to false teaching and can easily become discouraged when prophecies fail to unfold as bad teachers predict (as was the case which Jesus did not return in May 2014, or October 2015, or September 2017). Believers in Christ are to know His teachings and be able to "correctly handle the word of truth" (2 Tim. 2:15b).

KEY PROVISIONS: In recent decades there has been a push to view the Bible as allegorical. Many now hold that the Bible may impart a few generally positive guiding principles, but it certainly is not a living, Spirit-inspired message from God to be taken literally. Many faulty

approaches to interpreting Scripture flow from this corrupt view. In researching this vital subject and writing this article, I followed the most common hermeneutic practices (procedures governing the interpretation of Scripture) established by conservative leaders of the historic Christian Church. These guiding principles include:

- A belief that the Bible is accurate, true, and inspired.
- A belief that major prophetic sections of the books of Revelation and Ezekiel are written in chronological order.
- A belief that Bible prophecy is specific, and every detail of a prophecy must be fulfilled for the prophecy to be considered fulfilled. [For example, if a prophecy notes that 6 nations will attack Israel, and only 4 nations attack, that prophecy would be considered not yet fulfilled.]
- A belief that some variance in detail does not negate the possibility of writers profiling the same event. [For example, the Gospel writers presented significantly different details when recording the events that took place on the Sunday following the cross.]

KEY TERMS: Understanding what Bible prophecy notes will happen in the future begins with an understanding of key biblical terms. These include:

Armageddon: The word appears only once in the New Testament (Rev. 16:16) and references the location of the last (and decisive) battle before the return of Christ and commencement of His Millennial Reign. This battle will conclude the seven-year Tribulation period. During this battle the armies of the Antichrist and False Prophet will be defeated by Jesus Christ. The Antichrist and False Prophet will be judged and thrown into the pit of fire, and Christ will then usher-in His Millennial Kingdom.

Millennial Reign: The literal 1000-year period in which Christ will reign on a renewed earth in fulfillment of the Isaiah 9:7 prophecy. His Kingdom and reign will be marked by peace and righteousness. His subjects will include the saints, Tribulation martyrs, and believers who survived the Tribulation period.

The Gog-Magog War: In general, this references vast evil armies moving against Israel. The primary biblical reference point for this war is

Ezekiel chapters 38-39, however, the terms Gog and Magog are also referenced in Revelation 20.

Elam: An ancient reference to southwestern Iran (Persia). Gog and Magog: In Genesis 10, Gog is mentioned as an individual (a descendant of Noah), and his land is Magog. Gog can also be understood as a title, meaning leader. I.e., Gog is the leader of the inhabitants of Magog.

WHAT IS CLEAR

Though there is debate regarding the interpretation of some prophetic passages, the vast majority of Bible Scholars agree that...

- The Psalm 83 War is NOT the Battle of Armageddon or the GogMagog War. The names of the nations or people groups attacking Israel, the scope of the battle, how Israel is victorious in the fight, and the aftermath of the battle are markedly different in the Psalm 83 War than in the Battle of Armageddon (Revelation 16-19) or the Gog-Magog War (Ezekiel 38-39).
- The Psalm 83 War can likely be linked to the destruction of Damascus (noted in Isaiah 17), and the expansion of Israel's borders or sphere of control (noted in Ezekiel 23, Jeremiah 49 and Isaiah 19).
- The Battle of Armageddon is profiled in Revelation 16-19.
- Ezekiel's eschatological profile of future Israel is chronological. Chapter 36 prophecies promise a renewed Israel, chapter 37 prophecies note a restored Israel, chapter 38-39 prophecies notes an invasion against a restored Israel, and chapter 40 prophecies profile the Millennial Reign of Christ in Israel.
- The Bible notes that there are TWO battles involving Gog and Magog. There is conjecture regarding the timing of the first GogMagog conflict, but virtually all conservative scholars agree that this conflict is profiled in Ezekiel 38-39 and will precede the Millennium. The second Gog-Magog conflict will take place at the end of the Millennial Reign of Christ (Revelation 20:1-10).

WHAT IS NOT ABSOLUTELY CLEAR

Good Bible scholars are not in agreement on the following points regarding the wars.

- Whether or not the Psalm 83 War prophecy has already been fulfilled. Most believe that the Psalm 83 War is yet future, but some notable teachers hold that Psalm 83 prophecies were fulfilled in the battle for Israel that took place in 1948, or that Psalm 83 prophecies were fulfilled in stages, in conflicts that took place in 1948, 1949, 1967 and 1973. Those who hold this view believe that the Isaiah 17 prophecy regarding the destruction of Damascus is imminent but can occur separately from the fulfillment of the Psalm 83 prophecy by some years.
- Whether or not the Ezekiel 38-39 Gog-Magog War is the same as the Revelation 16-19 Battle of Armageddon. What follows is a comparative analysis of the two conflicts.

WHY SOME BELIEVE THE BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON AND THE EZEKIEL 38-39 GOG-MAGOG CONFLICT ARE ONE AND THE SAME.

- In both conflicts, God intervenes and brings about the victory (which is different from the Psalm 83 War where Israel's army, blessed by God, secures the victory).
- The depiction of God's wrath in Ezekiel 38:19-22 resembles happenings associated with the Battle of Armageddon as profiled in Revelation 16. In both passages, God aids Israel by sending an earthquake and pestilence, and fire and hail fall from the sky.
- The Revelation 16-19 Battle of Armageddon directly precedes the Millennial Reign of Christ, which tracks well with the eschatological chronology in Ezekiel: in chapter 36 there is a promise to renew the land of Israel, in chapter 37 Israel is restored as a nation, in chapters 38-39, Israel is attacked but supernaturally protected, and in chapter 40 the Millennial Reign of Christ begins.
- The immediate aftermath of the wars is similar when comparing Ezekiel 39:17-20 with Revelation 19:17-20.
- Gog and Magog are mentioned in Ezekiel 38 and Revelation 20.

- Historically, most have equated the Gog-Magog War with Armageddon.
- The devastating earthquake that flattens every mountain in Ezekiel 38 is very similar to the earthquake prophesied to take place during the Battle of Armageddon in Revelation 16.

WHY SOME BELIEVE THE REVELATION 16-19 BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON AND THE EZEKIEL 38-39 GOG-MAGOG CONFLICT ARE SEPARATE AND DISTINCT CONFLICTS.

- There seem to be more nations involved in the Battle of Armageddon than in the Gog-Magog War.
- In the Gog-Magog War of Ezekiel 38-39, it takes seven months to bury the dead, and Israelis utilize enemy weapons for fuel for seven years. This is not mentioned in the Revelation 16-19 Battle of Armageddon, and some argue that because the Revelation 16-19 battle happens at the end of the Tribulation period, there is not an interpretation allowing for the burying of the dead over a period of months, or for the use of enemy weapons as fuel for seven years. Note: The argument is that such activity would extend well past the end of the Tribulation period and would not appear to fit well with the time that Jesus reigns on a supernaturally renewed earth and is providing for His people in what is known as the Millennial Reign of Christ.
- The purpose of God bringing victory to Israel in the Gog-Magog War is to bring Israel to repentance so that all acknowledge the Lord. The purpose of God moving to bring victory to Israel in the Battle of Armageddon is to deliver believers from the horrors of the reign of the Antichrist.
- In Matthew 24 and in Revelation 12, those who flee the wrath of the Antichrist run to the hills (a move encouraged by Jesus in Mark 13:14). However, the Gog-Magog War takes place in the mountains (which God will flatten via a supernatural earthquake). This likely puts this Ezekiel 38-39 Gog-Magog War before the midpoint of the Tribulation.
- In the Ezekiel 38-39 Gog-Magog War, the name of the leader of the armies advancing against Israel is Gog—in Hebrew, the numerical value of his name is 12. In the Battle of Armageddon,

the leader of the armies advancing against Israel is the Beast—the numerical value of his name is 666.

- In Ezekiel 38-39, the battle takes place in the mountains of Israel, and the battle does not seem to impact Jerusalem. In the Revelation 16-19 Battle of Armageddon, enemy forces are vanquished in a valley (Joel 3:2), and a river of blood runs through Israel (Rev 14:20).
- The Ezekiel 38-39 Gog-Magog War occurs when Israel is enjoying peace and safety (“...she is a nation of unwalled villages...” Ezek. 38:11). The Revelation 16-19 Battle of Armageddon takes place at the end of the Tribulation. At that time, the Antichrist is oppressing and threatening to destroy Israel.
- The purpose of the Gog-Magog invasion is to “take spoil,” while the purpose of Armageddon is to destroy Israel once and for all.
- The primary direction of advancing armies in the Gog-Magog War come from the North—in the Battle of Armageddon enemies move against Israel from all corners of the globe.
- At the end of the Battle of Armageddon, Jesus Christ stands on Mount Olivet—there are no references to a divine presence appearing in the Ezekiel 38-39 Gog-Magog War.

RESPONSES TO ANTICIPATED QUESTIONS

There seem to be more nations involved in the Battle of Armageddon than in the Gog-Magog War. *It is possible that Ezekiel 38 presents a partial listing of enemy nations (noting only key players or leaders of the engagement), and that the “every nation of the world” verse associated with the Battle of Armageddon is a general statement meaning many nations are involved in the attack. Neither passage provides conclusive evidence to argue for or against the view that the Gog-Magog War is the same as the Battle of Armageddon.*

In the Gog-Magog War of Ezekiel 38-39, it takes seven months to bury the dead, and Israelis utilize enemy weapons for fuel for seven years. This is not mentioned in the Revelation 16-19 Battle of Armageddon, and some argue that because the Revelation 16-19 battle happens at the end of the Tribulation period, there is not an interpretation allowing for the burying of the dead over a period of months, or for the use of enemy weapons as fuel for seven years. *In the Gog-Magog War, the dead are buried—in the Battle of Armageddon the dead are vaporized by the power of God or savaged by birds and wild animals. The*

differences regarding the dead, and the fact that Israel will use weapons of war for fuel for seven years after the GogMagog War represents compelling evidence supporting the view that the Gog-Magog War and the Battle of Armageddon are two separate conflicts.

The purpose of God bringing victory to Israel in the Ezekiel 38-39 Gog-Magog War is to bring Israel to repentance so that all acknowledge the Lord. The object of God moving to bring victory to Israel in the Battle of Armageddon is to deliver believers from the horrors of the reign of the Antichrist. *Again, these differences represent reasonably compelling evidence supporting the view that the Gog-Magog War and the Battle of Armageddon are two separate conflicts.*

In Matthew 24 and in Revelation 12, those who flee the wrath of the Antichrist run to the hills (a move encouraged by Jesus in Mark 13:14). However, the Gog-Magog War takes place in the mountains (which God will flatten via a supernatural earthquake). This likely puts the Ezekiel 38-39 Gog-Magog War before the mid-point of the Tribulation. *References to the location of the Gog-Magog War and the Battle of Armageddon are general and do not provide conclusive evidence that these are two different conflicts. Those who argue that Armageddon must take place in the Valley of Jehoshaphat must remember that the engagement will involve millions of soldiers and that soldiers and equipment will likely occupy the entire region. Also, the word Armageddon means the mound (mountain) of Megiddo or "Mountain of Assembly."*

In the Ezekiel 38-39 Gog-Magog War, the name of the leader of the armies advancing against Israel is Gog—in Hebrew, the numerical value of his name is 12. In the Battle of Armageddon, the leader of the armies advancing against Israel is the Beast—the numerical value of his name is 666. *The difference in how the key leaders are referenced (more than the difference in the numerical value of the names of the leaders) represents reasonably compelling evidence supporting the view that the Gog-Magog War and the Battle of Armageddon are two separate conflicts.*

In Ezekiel 38-39, the battle takes place in the mountains of Israel—the battle does not seem to impact Jerusalem. In the Revelation 16-19

Battle of Armageddon, enemy forces are vanquished in a valley (Joel 3:2), and a river of blood runs through Israel (Rev 14:20). *Again, references to the location of the Gog-Magog War and the Battle of Armageddon (and the inclusion of the detail about the 'river of blood') do not represent conclusive evidence that these are two different conflicts.*

The Ezekiel 38-39 Gog-Magog War occurs when Israel is enjoying peace and safety ("nation of unwalled villages" Ezek. 38:11). The Revelation 16-19 Battle of Armageddon takes place at the end of the Tribulation, at a time when the Antichrist is oppressing and threatening to destroy Israel (and some Hebrews have fled to the mountains of Petra (Revelation 12:6) for safety. *In the Hebrew text, the term "safety" can be understood as confidence. That is, though there is a threat of war (as there is today), Israel can be at peace and feel safe because they are confident in their military ability to check any threat against them. This is the primary counterargument to those who teach that Israel will only live in peace and safety AFTER the Psalm 83 War and expansion of borders or AFTER they enter into a peace compact with the Antichrist (Daniel 9:27).*

The stated purpose of the armies involved in the Gog-Magog invasion is to "take the spoil," while the purpose of Armageddon is to destroy Israel once and for all. *The distinction regarding motive represents compelling evidence supporting the view that the Gog-Magog War and the Battle of Armageddon are two separate conflicts.*

In the Gog-Magog invasion, armies advance on Israel from the North. In the Battle of Armageddon, enemies move against Israel from all corners of the globe. *The different notations regarding the direction of the attack do not represent conclusive evidence that the Gog-Magog War and Battle of Armageddon are separate conflicts. The reference "from the North" can merely be a reference to the location of the base of the principal leader, the primary (but not sole) direction of the advance, or the direction that armies from the four corners of the earth gather and begin their advance.*

At the end of the Battle of Armageddon, Jesus Christ appears and stands on the Mount Olives, but there are no references to a divine

presence appearing in the Ezekiel 38-39 Gog-Magog War. *Even though Ezekiel was writing before the birth of Christ, the distinction regarding the conclusion of these battles is significant enough to represent compelling evidence supporting the view that the Gog-Magog War and the Battle of Armageddon are two separate conflicts.*

REASONABLE CONCLUSIONS

The Psalm 83 War prophecy could be partially fulfilled at this point in history, but it appears that not all Psalm 83 prophecies have been completely fulfilled. It can be argued that the 10 nations or people groups identified in Psalm 83 have not, in coordination, attacked Israel as prophesied, and the stated result of the Psalm 83 War – that these nations would be “filled with shame and seek your name” (83:16-18) has not yet been realized.

The Isaiah 17 prophecy regarding the destruction of Damascus can likely be associated with (or will immediately follow) the Psalm 83 War.

The expansion of Israel’s borders will likely be associated with (or immediately follow) the complete fulfillment of the prophesied Psalm 83 and Isaiah 17 conflicts (see Ezekiel 23, Jeremiah 49 and Isaiah 19).

The expansion of Israel’s borders (see Ezekiel 23, Jeremiah 49 and Isaiah 19) likely explains why the nations near Israel are not mentioned in the coalition of nations attacking Israel in the Ezekiel 38-39 Gog-Magog War or Battle of Armageddon.

The Ezekiel 38-39 Gog-Magog War is different from the Battle of Armageddon, and because it will take place in the mountains (where God’s people will later take refuge), the battle will likely take place before the midpoint of the Tribulation.

There will be TWO wars associated with the terms Gog and Magog. The first is the war is profiled in Ezekiel 38-39, the second is profiled in Revelation 20 and takes place at the end of the Millennial Reign of Jesus Christ.

PROJECTED TIME-LINE/SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

Note: It is possible that several of the prophecies noted below will be fulfilled simultaneously

- The Psalm 83 War prophecy will be completely fulfilled.
- Damascus will be destroyed (Isaiah 17).
- Israel's borders will expand (Ezekiel 23, Jeremiah 49 and Isaiah 19)
- Elam (southwest Iran) will threaten Israel but will be destroyed by a preemptive Israeli strike (Jeremiah 49:34-39).
- Russia (Rosh/Ros or Gog) will lead an invasion against Israel—advancing from the North (Ezekiel 38-39).
- The Antichrist will stand in a new Temple in Jerusalem and proclaim himself to be God (2 Thess. 2:4).
- The Antichrist will lead the armies of the world to attack Jerusalem in the Battle of Armageddon (Rev. 16-19).
- The Battle of Armageddon will conclude when Jesus appears on Mt. Olivet and defeats all enemy forces (Rev. 19:17-21) with the power of His spoken word. The Antichrist and False Prophet will be captured, bound, and thrown into the fiery lake of burning sulfur (Rev. 19:20).
- The Millennial Reign of Christ will begin after the Battle of Armageddon. After 1000 years, Satan will be released and will lead one last desperate battle against the rule of God. He will gather forces and attempt to attack Jerusalem in the second war associated with the terms Gog and Magog (Rev. 20:7-10). Satan and all who follow him will be defeated. Then will come the final judgment and eternal reward for believers (Rev. 20:11-15).

WHAT ARE THE CORE TAKE-AWAY TRUTHS IN THIS TEACHING?

Many of the prophecies noted in this document can be fulfilled rapidly, or simultaneously. World events can change quickly as current alliances can be broken, and former friends can become fierce enemies overnight. It is not wise to project that it will take months or years for the political landscape to change so specific prophecies can be fulfilled.

The Rapture can precede the commencement of the Tribulation (which will begin with the signing of a peace covenant between Israel and her enemies) by days, weeks or even several years.

The Antichrist will lead in the brokering of a peace covenant between Israel and her enemies.

Psalms 83 prophecies may have been fulfilled, but the Isaiah 17 prophecy regarding the destruction of Damascus and the multiple prophecies regarding the expansion of Israel's borders are yet future. These conflicts may set the stage for the Antichrist to broker a peace agreement between Israel and her enemies.

The prophecy regarding the sense of peace and security that Israel enjoys before the beginning of the Ezekiel 38-39 war may already be fulfilled (if peace and security are to be understood as confidence in their military strength). Still, that aspect of the Ezekiel 38-39 GogMagog War prophecy is but one of several components that need to be fulfilled for the Gog-Magog War to unfold as foretold.

In every battle God stands with Israel, the integrity of the Bible is validated, and the Lord desires that the wonder of it all draw people into a personal relationship with Him through His Son Jesus Christ.

EVIL ENTITIES IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Bible prophecy notes that several evil entities will arise in the last days. These entities are not merely symbols of evil; they are evil individuals, systems, or governments that Satan will work through to advance his agenda. In different ways, these entities are evil personified—and depict Satan's rage, for he knows "his time is short" (Rev. 12:12). Read on to learn more about who or what these evil entities are and what they are prophesied to do.

Evil Entity #1 – The Antichrist

The Antichrist is one of the principal characters in the book of Revelation. He is evil personified. His nature, attributes and goals are profiled in the article "The Antichrist – The Beast of Revelation.pdf" located in the Section 08 – Additional Articles folder.

Evil Entity #2 – the Beast

There are differences of opinions regarding the identity of the Beast. The Bible references **a** Beast and **the** Beast. The Beast of Daniel 7 seems linked

to an evil system or government. The Beast of Revelation 13 seems to be an individual. Though there are a few verses which make identification of the Beast difficult, most scholars who review all biblical references to the Beast see the high correlation between the attributes of the Beast and the attributes of the Antichrist, and therefore identify the Beast as the Antichrist.

Verses which appear to differentiate the two merely speak to different aspects of Satan's plan or nature. For example, the socio-economic system of the Tribulation period is referred to as **a** Beast as it is vicious and evil. However, it will be **the** Beast that governs this global system. The attributes of the system he governs depict the nature of the Beast. The global system he governs will point to his vast authority. The beastly attributes of this system will evidence the evil forces that undergird it. The signs and wonders associated with the Beast point to the supernatural—his agenda links him to the demonic, and his attributes, which mirror that of the Antichrist, makes him one with the Antichrist. Just as there is a symbiotic relationship between the Antichrist and Satan, there seems to be a shared identity between the Beast and the Antichrist. Revelation 13 references the system of the Beast, and the work of the Beast.

"I saw a second beast, coming out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb, but it spoke like a dragon. And it performed great signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to the earth in full view of the people. Because of the signs...it deceived the inhabitants of earth...It also forced all people, great and small, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hands or on their foreheads, so that they could not buy or sell unless they had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of its name. This calls for wisdom. Let the person who has insight calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man. That number is 666." (Revelation 13:12-18)

Evil entity #3 – The False Prophet

The false prophet, like *the Beast*, noted above, is a mysterious being. His work is specifically referenced in Revelation 13, 16, and 19. Revelation 20 notes that in the end he will be judged and thrown into the lake of fire.

Satan imitates the things of God (2 Corinthians 11:14-15). During the Tribulation period, Satan will arrange for the building of a new Temple in Jerusalem, through the Antichrist and False Prophet he will compel the world to worship him, and with the Antichrist and False Prophet, he will create a pseudo-trinity. Whereas the primary work of the Beast/Antichrist will be to govern political, social, and economic systems, the primary work of the False Prophet will be to lead a corrupt religious system (designed to lead the world away from acknowledging God and His Son Jesus Christ). The False Prophet will speak words which persuade and have the power to manifest signs and wonders to deceive the masses. The False Prophet will lead a global religion designed to honor Satan and the Antichrist. Many who refuse alliance will die as martyrs (Revelation 14:9-12, 20:4-6).

Evil entity #4 – The Woman who rides the Beast

The book of Revelation references a mysterious evil entity—referred to as *Mystery Babylon*, *The Whore of Babylon*, *The Great Prostitute*, and *The Woman Who Rides the Beast*. Revelation 17 reads,

"One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, 'Come, I will show you the punishment of the great prostitute, who sits by many waters. ² With her the kings of the earth committed adultery, and the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries.' ³ ...I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns. ⁴ The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and was glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls. She held a golden cup in her hand, filled with abominable things and the filth of her adulteries. ⁵ The name written on her forehead was a mystery: Babylon the great the mother of prostitutes and of the abominations of the earth. ⁶ I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of God's holy people, the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus. When I saw her, I was greatly astonished. ⁷ Then the angel said to me: 'Why are you astonished? I will explain to you the mystery of the woman... ⁸ The beast, which you saw, once was, now is not, and yet will come up out of the Abyss and go to its destruction. The inhabitants of the earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the creation of the world will be astonished when they see the beast, because it once was, now is not, and yet will

come. ⁹ This calls for a mind with wisdom. The seven heads are seven hills on which the woman sits. ¹⁰ They are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; but when he does come, he must remain for only a little while. ¹¹ The beast who once was, and now is not, is an eighth king. He belongs to the seven and is going to his destruction. ¹² "The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but who for one hour will receive authority as kings along with the beast...¹⁴ They will wage war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will triumph over them...¹⁵ Then the angel said to me, "The waters you saw, where the prostitute sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations and languages. ¹⁶ The beast and the ten horns you saw will hate the prostitute. They will bring her to ruin and leave her naked; they will eat her flesh and burn her with fire. ¹⁷ For God has put it into their hearts to accomplish his purpose... ¹⁸

The woman you saw is the great city that rules over the kings of the earth."

What the text reveals about the *Woman Who Rides the Beast*

The Old and New Testaments reference this evil entity. She is referred to as a "mystery" because the nation or system was yet future and would be very different from other empires or nations noted in Scripture. She is referred to as a "whore" because she is unfaithful to the God she claims to love. She is referred to as a "daughter of Babylon" because she embraces many of the pagan philosophies and practices of ancient Babylon. The many descriptive phrases for this "Woman who rides the Beast" may provide a clue to the identity of the nation or system she represents. Presented below are prophetic, descriptive phrases which to many – this writer among them – show the "Woman who rides the Beast" to have an association with the United States of America in Prophecy. For more information on this topic, see the article "America in Prophecy – The Future of the USA.pdf" document in the Section 08 – Additional Articles folder.

- She is noted for her architecture, buildings, and skyline (Isaiah 13:22).
- She is the lone or newest notable world power (Isaiah 47:5,8).
- She is respected and envied by the world, and yet at the same time, hated by the world (Isaiah 18:2).
- She has a unique and remarkable beginning (Isaiah 18:2).

- ▣ She is a “Queen among nations” (Isaiah 47:5,7; Rev. 17-18; Isaiah 13:6).
- ▣ She is called a lady (Isaiah 47:7-9).
- ▣ She is a land quartered by mighty rivers (Isaiah 18:2).
- ▣ She destroys her land, with pollution/waste (Isaiah 14:20, 18:2, 7).
- ▣ She is a democracy—ruled by many counsels (Isaiah 47:13).
- ▣ Her governmental system will break down (Isaiah 47:13).
- ▣ She is known for religious confusion (Isaiah 47:12-13).
- ▣ She is a virgin nation; her lands untouched by invaders (Isaiah 47:1).
- ▣ Her enemies lie on the other side of the world (Isaiah 13:5).
- ▣ Her people think they are God’s elect and chosen (Isaiah 47:7-8).
- ▣ She acts carelessly before the Lord (Isaiah 47:8).
- ▣ She is proud, haughty, and does not consider her end (Isaiah 47:7-8).
- ▣ She is the youngest and greatest of the end time nations (Jeremiah 50:12).
- ▣ She is the most powerful nation (Isaiah 47, Jeremiah 50, 51, Revelation 18). The strength of her armies will make her the “Hammer of the whole earth” (Jeremiah 50:23; Revelation 18:23).
- ▣ She is a land rich in minerals (Jeremiah 51:13) and agriculture (Jeremiah 50:16,26-27; Revelation 18). She is a leading import/export nation (Jeremiah 51:13, 51; Revelation 18).
- ▣ She sits upon “many waters” (Jeremiah 51:13).
- ▣ She turns on her heritage (Jeremiah 50:11-12).
- ▣ Her leaders lead their flocks astray (Jeremiah 50:6; implied Rev. 18:2).
- ▣ She has a mother nation that remains until her death (Jeremiah 50:12).
- ▣ Her mother has the symbol of the lion (Daniel 7:4; Ezekiel 38:13; Jeremiah 51:38; Psalms 17:12).
- ▣ She will turn against her own people (Jeremiah 50:7,33; 51:35; 39; Daniel 7:25; Revelation 13:7; 17:6; 18:24).
- ▣ She trades with many via ships all year round (Revelation 18:17-18).

The prophet Jeremiah (chapters 50-51) and the Apostle John (Revelation 17) note the fate of the “Woman who rides the Beast.”

Summary

The timing of some key future events (and the identity of some key future individuals or entities) may be unknown, but we can know that in the epic struggle of good versus evil, God will prevail. Follow Christ and you will share in His victory.

"Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ! Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast and immovable. Always excel in the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain." (1 Corinthians 15:57-58)

WHAT IS THE MILLENNIAL REIGN OF CHRIST

The Millennium and the Millennial Reign of Christ are referenced in Scripture more than 2000 times. Many view Revelation 20 as the principle (if not the sole) reference to the Millennium in the Bible. However, there are more references to the Millennium in the Old Testament than in the New Testament. Scholars note that there are more than 1800 references to the Millennium in the Old Testament and more than 300 in the New Testament. 85% of the books in the New Testament reference the Millennium. The Millennium and Millennial Reign of Christ are subjects that concern the future of the earth and believers in Christ. This article seeks to provide an informative, encouraging biblical overview of this prominent Bible subject.

Familiar references to the Millennial Reign of Christ:

Many familiar Scripture passages reference the Millennial Kingdom. These include:

- Jesus referenced the Millennium in the Lord's Prayer when He states: "Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." (Matthew 6:9-13)
- The prophet Isaiah referenced the Millennium in his Messianic prophecy: "For to us a child is born, to us, a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace, there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom,

establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness.”
(Isaiah 9:6-9)

- In his vision of future kingdoms, the prophet Daniel foresees the Millennial Kingdom and writes: “In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever.” (Daniel 2:1-44)

References to the Millennial Kingdom flow through the Old and New Testaments. A sampling of Millennial Kingdom references arranged in categories follows:

What The Millennium Will Be Like

Satan will no longer oppress the earth or God's beloved people

“Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things, he must be released for a little while.” (Revelation 20:1-3)

The earth will be restored and renewed

“For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.” (Isaiah 65:17-25)

Jesus will reign as King (Isaiah 2:4; 42:1).

The world will be at peace (Isaiah 11:6-9; 32:18).

Jesus will serve as King and righteous judge: “He shall judge between many peoples, and rebuke strong nations afar off; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.” (Micah 4:3)

Satan will be bound (Rev. 20:1-3). All inhabitants will freely worship God (Isaiah 2:2-3)

The earth will be at peace

"Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, 'The Lord our righteousness.'" (Jeremiah 23:5-6)

Believers who survive the tribulation will inhabit the new earth. Joining them will be tribulation period martyrs and believers who are currently in heaven.

Jesus will rule in love and with a "rod of iron" (Psalm 2:9; Revelation 2:27; 12:5; 19:15). Tribulation period believers will receive special honor (Matthew 25:23; Luke 19:16-19).

Surviving believers from the tribulation period will live in renewed mortal bodies during Christ's earthly reign (Zechariah 14:16-21; Revelation 20:7-10). Longevity will be the norm.

Believers who are currently in heaven with Christ will reign with Him in this Kingdom (Daniel 7:18).

"...For You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth." (Revelation 5:9-10)

These believers will possess the Kingdom. (Daniel 7:18-27)

These believers will lead with Christ as their King. (Job 36:7)

These believers will serve as judges, officers, and leaders. (Psalm 149; Isaiah 60:17)

These believers will teach truth. (Psalm 37:29-31; Jer. 3:15)

"...They shall be priests of God and Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years." (Revelation 20:6)

Israel's borders will expand

The Land Covenant (Deuteronomy 30:1-10).

In the days of Joshua and the kings, Israel did claim some of the lands God promised to Abraham. However, Israel has never possessed **all** of the lands God promised in Gen. 15 and Num. 34:1-12.

Consider these promises:

On the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, God promised:

"To your descendants, I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to...the River Euphrates..." (Gen. 15:18-21)

The prophet Ezekiel reminded Israel: "Thus says the Lord God: These are the borders by which you shall divide the land as an inheritance among the twelve tribes of Israel. Joseph shall have two portions. You shall inherit it equally with one another; for I raised My hand in an oath to give it to your fathers, and this land shall fall to you as your inheritance. This shall be the border of the land on the north: from the Great Sea, by the road to Hethlon, as one goes to Zedad, Hamath, Berothah, Sibraim (which is between the borders of Damascus and Hamath), to Hazar Hatticon (which is on the border of Hauran). Thus, the boundary shall be from the Sea to Hazar Enan, the border of Damascus; and as for the north, northward, it is the border of Hamath. This is the north side." (Ezekiel 47:13-17)

Through the prophet Ezekiel God further promises: "On the east side you shall mark out the border from between Hauran and Damascus, and between Gilead and the land of Israel, along the Jordan, and along the eastern side of the sea. This is the east side. The south side, toward the South, shall be from Tamar to the waters of Meribah by Kadesh, along the brook to the Great Sea. This is the south side...The west side shall be the Great Sea, from the southern boundary until one comes to a point opposite Hamath. This is the west side. Thus, you shall divide this land among yourselves according to the tribes of Israel." (Ezekiel 47:18-21)

Through Moses God promised: "If any of you are driven to the farthest parts...from there the LORD your God will gather you...Then the LORD your God will bring you to the land which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it. He will prosper you..." (Deut. 30:4-6)

There will be a new Temple in Jerusalem

"And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall...go up from year to year to worship the... LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles." (Zech. 14:16-21)

Covenants will be fulfilled

As noted above (Genesis 15:18-21) God's covenant regarding the land and future of Israel will be realized during the Millennial reign of Christ.

God's covenant with David centers on how his heir would sit on the throne and rule Israel (2 Sam. 7:16). Jesus is the fulfillment of this covenant (which accounts for the recording of his genealogy via both His stepfather (Matthew 1:1-17) and His mother (Luke 3:23-38). The Jews acknowledged the covenant when they laid down palm branches and their cloaks as Jesus rode into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:1-17).

However, they wrongly expected Jesus to be a military and political leader that would liberate Israel from the Romans. They did not understand that 2000 years ago Jesus was preparing to establish a New Covenant, not fulfill the Davidic Covenant. That Covenant will be satisfied during the reign of Christ on earth (Revelation 20:4,6).

God's covenant as profiled through Jeremiah and Ezekiel

The prophet Jeremiah wrote: "But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people." (Jeremiah 31:33)

The prophet Ezekiel provides additional details: "You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God." (Ezekiel 36:28)

Life on earth will be different.

Longevity: "No more shall an infant from there live but a few days, nor an old man who has not fulfilled his days; for the child shall die one hundred years old...they shall build houses and...plant vineyards and eat their fruit..." (Isaiah 65:20-22)

Docile animals: "...The wolf and the lamb shall feed together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox...They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain,' Says the LORD." (Isaiah 65:34-35)

Peaceful coexistence: "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea." (Isaiah 11:6-9)

No War: "...They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks...nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore." (Mic. 4:3). Isaiah 2:4 is a similar passage. There the prophet notes that not only will there no longer be war, but there will be no weapons, nor will battle strategies be taught.

The geography and geology of the earth will be different

"...I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem as a rejoicing...the voice of weeping shall no longer be heard in her, nor the voice of crying." (Isaiah 65:17-19)

A great earthquake will divide Jerusalem into three parts (Revelation 16:18-19). The earthquake will occur when Jesus touches His foot on the Mount of Olives. Water will flow out from the city after the great earthquake (Zechariah 14:4-8). The new millennial temple will stand over this river (Ezekiel 47:1-12).

Jerusalem will be a prominent high point on Earth during the Millennium (Isaiah 2:2). The great earthquake at the Second Coming of Jesus will level mountains and make islands disappear (Revelation 16:20; Isaiah 40:4-5).

There will be a new fountain of living water: "In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and uncleanness" (Zechariah 13:1). Zechariah 14:8 notes where the waters will flow: "And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former (eastern) sea, and half of them toward the hinder (western) sea: in summer and in winter shall it be." The living waters will flow out of Jerusalem in two directions, to the west to the great sea (Mediterranean Sea) and to the east to the Dead Sea (or Salt Sea). Also see Ezekiel 47:1-7.

This new fountain will impact the Dead Sea: The Dead Sea has no outlet and is seven times saltier than the oceans. No fish live in the Dead Sea at this time. Ezekiel 47:8-11 notes, however, that the waters of the Dead Sea will be healed: "Then said he unto me, these waters issue out toward the east country, and go down into the desert, and go into the sea: which brought forth into the sea, the waters shall be healed. And it shall come to pass, that...there shall be a very great multitude of fish..."

Worship during the Millennial Reign of Christ

Jerusalem will be a center for worship: "And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. And it shall be that whichever of the families of the earth do not come up to Jerusalem to worship...on them there will be no rain..." (Zechariah 14:16-19)

- o Ezekiel 40-48 notes that God will re-institute temple worship and sacrifices in the Millennium. Many believe the purpose for these sacrifices is to commemorate the sacrificial work of Christ... It will serve as a stark picture and solemn reminder of the penalty Christ paid in dying for our sins on the cross.

- "But in those sacrifices, there is a reminder of sins every year. For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins." (Hebrews 10:3)
 - Gentiles will keep the Feast of Tabernacles (which was formerly a feast just for Israel). To do so, individuals will travel to Jerusalem in the fall to "worship the King."
 - Ezekiel 43:7 notes: *"And he said unto me, Son of man,*

the place of my throne...[is] where I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel..."

It may be that the Feast of Tabernacles takes on a slightly different meaning during the Millennial Reign of Christ as the focus will no longer be Israel's rescue from Egypt, but rather, how Christ has saved his children from all over the world. The prophet Jeremiah notes: "Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that it shall no more be said, The LORD liveth, that brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; But, The LORD liveth, that brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north, and from all the lands whither he had driven them: and I will bring them again into their land that I gave unto their fathers" (Jeremiah 16:14-15).

What happens after the Millennial Reign of Christ?

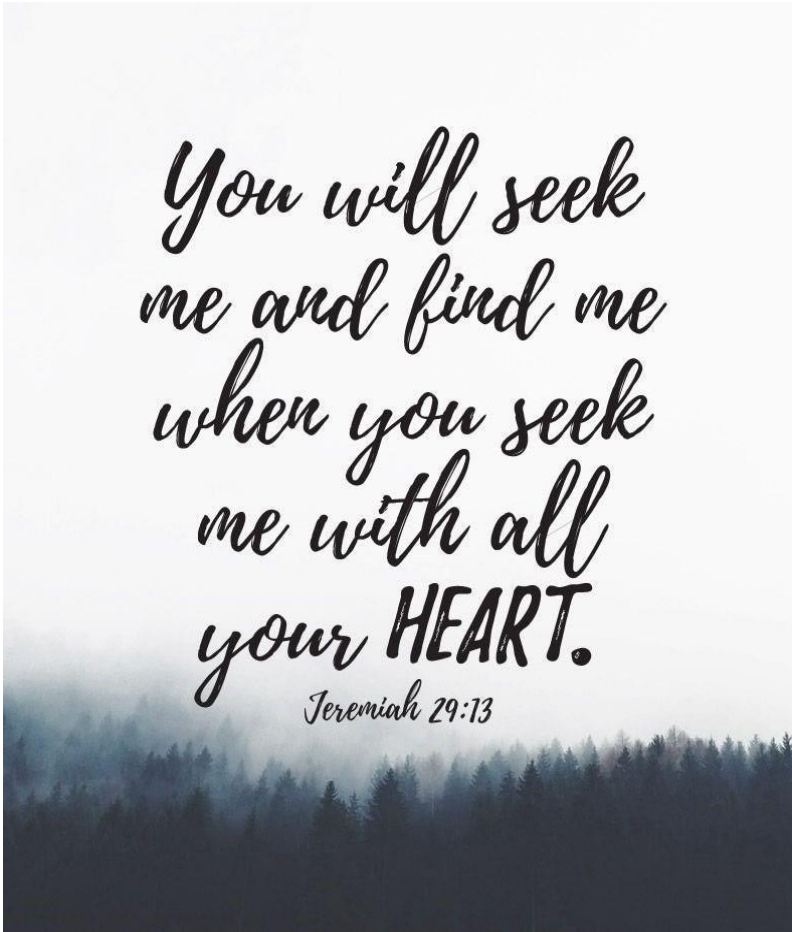
War and final judgment: "Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever." (Revelation 20:7-10)

The great judgment and reward of the saints: "Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is

the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.” (Revelation 20:11-15)

Summary

Knowing the timing and scope of some future events may not be possible, but we can know that in the end good will vanquish evil, and Jesus will reign triumphant. Those who have committed their lives to him will share in his victory (1 Corinthians 15:57). Until that time there will be unrest. There will be wars and rumors of wars and “troubles.” Are you ready? Will you commit to being ALL IN for Him (which means you are committed to making serving Him, growing in Him and witnessing for Him the priority of your life)? God expects believers to be active in well doing (Galatians 6:9). Be encouraged: A great reward awaits those who strive to do the right thing, in the right way, at the right time, in the right place, and with the right heart.



*You will seek
me and find me
when you seek
me with all
your HEART.*
Jeremiah 29:13

KNOWING GOD'S WILL

What the Bible says about how to discern and follow the will of God

Guiding Scripture: [God] *"I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee..."* (Psalm 32:8)

Discerning the will of God is almost never simple, quick, or easy. What worked for Mr. Jones may not work for Mrs. Smith. What worked for you yesterday may not work well for you tomorrow. God moves in mysterious ways—and communicates in many different ways. This article presents helps to aid in the process of discerning God's leading for your life.

Knowing the will of God is key to finding peace and purpose in life. As western culture is very formula and marketing-driven, many expect that the process of discerning the will of God should be able to be expressed as a slogan, formula, or recipe. That is not the case. Discerning God's will involve many variables and changing constants. This requires the seeker to remain open and dependent on God for prompting and guidance. One can never say, *"God can't be calling me to _____, for that has never been done that way before. Or "God can't be asking me to do _____ because I had success in doing _____ another way in the past.* Discerning the will of God is not about having a certain feeling or following a particular formula—it is about being sensitive to the subtle promptings of the Spirit that incrementally guide the perceptive seeker in the direction they ought to go.

The foundational truth of this study (and Christendom) is that true peace and happiness are obtainable only by fulfilling God's will. To fulfill God's will, one must first know what God's will is. This article will note a few insights regarding how to know God's will, how to discern between God's leading and Satan's clever deceptions, and how to identify (and avoid) the common roadblocks to being able to perceive God's leading.

Discerning the will of God can be challenging. Our prayer is that the notes below will help individuals grow in their ability to both discern His leading and receive His blessing.

5 Things To Consider When Considering The Will Of God

Believers are to look to God to direct their steps via the opening *and* closing of doors. A few support verses are noted below.

*"To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: "This is the message from the One Who is holy and true. He has the key that belonged to David, and when **He opens a door**, no one can close it, and **when He closes it**, no one can open it."* (Rev. 3:7)

*"...pray also for us, that God would **open unto us a door**...to speak the mystery of Christ..."* (Colossians 4:3)

*"The [Apostles] traveled through the region of...Galatia because the Holy Spirit **did not let them** preach...in the province of Asia. When they reached the border of Mysia, they tried to go into...Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus **did not allow them**."* (Acts 16:5-7)

God has a plan, and desires to reveal His plan

So then, one does not need to rely on their plan, or wonder *if* the Lord will reveal His leading, but *how* the Lord will reveal His leading. Consider the verses below.

- *[God] "I know the plans I have for you..."* (Jeremiah 29:11a)
- *"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."* (Proverbs 3:5-6)
- *"No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things I have heard from My Father I have made known to you."* (John 15:15)
- *"The secret of the Lord is with those that fear Him."* (Psalm 25:14)
- *"The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord..."* (Psalm 37:23)

- ▢ *[God] "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee..." (Psalm 32:8)*
- ▢ *"The holy God of Israel, the LORD who saves you, says: "I am the LORD your God, the one who wants to teach you for your own good and direct you in the way you should go." (Isaiah 48:17)*
- ▢ *"When, however, the Spirit comes, who reveals the truth about God, he will lead you into all the truth." (John 16:13)*

God reveals His plans in many different ways

- ▢ Dreams/Inspiration (Daniel 10-12)
- ▢ His Word (Psalm 119:1-16, 105)
- ▢ Seeking Him (Jeremiah 29:13; Judges 18:5)
- ▢ The counsel of the godly (Proverbs 11:14, 15:22, 19:20)
- ▢ Confirmation (Judges 6)

Possible hindrances to perceiving God's leading

- ▢ Sin (Psalm 36:1-4; Isaiah 57:17)
- ▢ Wrong motivation (Matthew 15:8; James 4:3; Romans 12:1-2)
- ▢ Impatience (Genesis 12-20)
- ▢ Limited prayer life (Isaiah 65:1)
- ▢ Fear (Joshua 1:6, 7, 9, 18)

God is sovereign. His will/way/timing/plan for you is perfect

God is never late—He never forgets or falters. His plans exceed our dreams. We can put our trust in Him. Reflect on the declaration of promise. *"This God—how perfect are his deeds..."* (2 Samuel 22:31)

Summary

Discerning God's will can be difficult—but it is essential to being able to live a life of peace and purpose. The challenge is twofold: We must be able to discern His will *and* have the courage to embrace and follow His leading.

The wise pray daily that the Spirit will aid in these two key areas. Help comes from the Holy Spirit. Scripture promises that the Spirit imparts power (Acts 1:8), wisdom (James 1:5) and a special connection to God via prayer (Romans 8:26).

Motivation comes from remembering God's Plans. 1) God loves you and has a plan for you. 2) His plan for you is not good—it is great. 3) His path for you will not be the easiest, shortest, most comfortable, or most convenient. Great hardship is to be expected, but so is a great reward.

Our God is wondrously creative. Expect Him to reveal His leading in wondrously creative ways. Be open. Be careful. Be prayerful. Be plugged into a ministry that can pray with you and help you discern His leading— particularly on the difficult and larger issues. Be patient and remember the Scriptural principle: If you seek Him, you will find Him (Jer. 29:12-13).

As noted early-on in this article, discerning the will of God is not about following a formula, but there are steps one must take (the paragraph above notes a few). The first step in being able to discern His will is to be in relationship with the one who referred to Himself as "*the Way, the Truth and the Life*" (John 14:6). His name is Jesus Christ. Entering into relationship with the Lord begins when one confesses their sins, turns to God, and accepts Jesus into their heart as Lord and Savior. From that decision flows forgiveness, joy, hope, the promise of eternity in heaven, and the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit which, among other things, provides guidance, peace, strength, wisdom, and direction to the believer.

Following the will of God does guarantee blessings and eternal reward but does not guarantee an easy life. Are you strong enough to persevere even when being faithful is difficult? Will you commit to being ALL IN for Him (which means you are committed to making serving Him, growing in Him, and witnessing for Him the priority of your life)? Remember, a great reward awaits those with great faith.

HOW TO DISCERN IF A DREAM OR VISION IS FROM GOD

"It will come about...that I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; and your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. "Even on the male and female servants, I will pour out My Spirit in those days."
Joel 2:28-29 (NASV)

How can one discern if a dream or vision is a special communication from God or not? Social media sites, alt news sites, and many internet-based ministries claim that they speak for God for they received visions or dreams from God. Is this possible? Some teach that God has only (and will only) speak through the prophets in the Bible, or believe that if God were to speak today, He would speak through professional clergy—likely through prominent pastors leading large churches. However, that supposition does not correlate well with Joel’s prophecy that in the last days, God would give dreams and visions to the unlikely—to those outside the ranks of professional clergy—to the young and old, to men and women, and to the rich and poor. If it is a given that in the last days God will give (to the unlikely) dreams and visions designed to warn, guide, and encourage, then the question is: *How do the wise determine whether or not a particular vision or dream is from God?*

Helpful thoughts and guidelines to determine whether or not a vision or dream is from God

Key Truths

- God has and will reveal insights through dreams and visions. Noted below is the Bible promise: *"...I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. ²⁹ Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit..."* (Joel 2:28b-32)
- The Bible notes that the giving of spiritual dreams and visions will be particularly prominent in the Last Days. The Last Days is the period between Pentecost and the end of the Tribulation Period. The Last Days also includes a short time referred to as The Birth Pangs by Jesus in Matthew 24 (vv. 4-14). The time of the Birth Pangs is the period immediately preceding the commencement of the Tribulation Period. It is likely God will give many dreams and visions during this time.
- Some suggest the Joel 2 prophecy noted above was fulfilled 2000 years ago when the disciples received the Holy Spirit in Acts 2:1-18, but this is not the case. Acts 2 records the BEGINNING of the fulfillment of the Joel 2 prophecy. Dreams

and visions will likely become more frequent and more prominent as we move closer to the commencement of the Tribulation Period.

Key Warnings

- ▢ False Christs will appear (Matthew 24:24).
- ▢ False prophets will arise (Matthew 7:15-20).
- ▢ Satan can present or conjure visions (Matthew 4:8).
- ▢ Satan 'masquerades as an angel of light' seeking to deceive (2 Cor. 11:14).
- ▢ Satan is the father of lies (John 8:44).
- ▢ Satan will deceive many (Revelation 13:14, 20:8).
- ▢ Believers should be mindful of the character of Satan and be especially careful to discern if a dream or vision is from God or the enemy.

Guiding Principles

- ▢ Rarity is the norm: Someone with 100 YouTube videos which begin with, "Last night the Lord visited me and said..." should be watched with extreme caution.
- ▢ Clarity is the norm: Individuals who speak unduly professorially, speak in King James sounding language, incorporate a mix of Greek or Hebrew words, use an abundance of uncommon theological terms, etc. make the content of their presentation suspect.
- ▢ God speaking through professional clergy (via dreams and visions) will not be the norm: The Joel 2 prophecy is a promise to give dreams and visions to the 'common man.' Ordinary Christians having dreams and visions will become the norm.
- ▢ Being excited and precise should be the norm. Bloggers and YouTubers who begin with, "I had a vision from the Lord three or four months ago..." should be viewed with skepticism. Anyone who has received a vision would be excited, moved, and unless told to wait, they would be eager and ecstatic to share the dream/vision they received from the Lord.

Guiding questions to help discern whether or not a dream or vision has come from God

- ▢ **Is the message biblically sound?** A communication from the Lord will not, in any way, contradict God's written Word.
- ▢ **Does the messenger promise something contrary to Scripture?** Individuals have received dreams and visions at places such as Lourdes and Fatima—although these visions are rather remarkable, they promise that if people pray a certain prayer, or pray to a particular person (not Jesus), then there will be peace in Israel. Such a promise is contrary to Scriptural promises and prophecies.
- ▢ **Does the vision activate spiritual action or facilitate fear?** Scripture continually inspires the hearer to action and cautions against fear. View with skepticism those who share something like, "The Lord gave me a vision of an asteroid hitting the earth and everyone on the east coast died—I just wanted you to know." Visions and dreams that follow the biblical model can exhort, but should also encourage, and direct individuals to particular courses of action.
- ▢ **Does the messenger clearly note what is from God and what is his/her opinion?** Many Bloggers and YouTube videographers incorporate their views into the dream they claim they received from the Lord. Their presentation might begin like: "In the vision the Lord gave me I saw an eagle falling from the sky... That means America's economy will fail by such and such date..." In general, sharing a dream is fine. Stating it is from the Lord can be reckless.

Interpreting the dream on your own is presumptuous. Truly let the Lord lead here. Share the interpretation only if God clearly provides one. Perhaps the Lord will give you a vision at some point in the future. If so, remember, dreams and visions are solemn spiritual communications. Be God's mouthpiece, but do not overstep, over-share or over-interpret what the Lord has revealed.

- **Does the messenger have a history of accuracy/integrity?** View those who have a history of

providing precise dates and prophecies with caution—particularly if their ‘prophecies’ have been shown to be in error in the past. Bible prophets were 100% accurate. God is never confused about what He is trying to say.

- **Does God receive the glory?** Is God the focus of the vision and presentation, or when sharing the dream or vision does the presenter make it more about themselves, their ministry, or their new book?
- **Does the messenger seek to find plausible explanations for how the prophetic vision can take place?** There are a good number of individuals who claim to have visions of disasters (floods, earthquakes, etc.). When discussing their experience, they include that they consulted a local scientist or professor or expert to verify such an event could take place in the area predicted. God IS the expert. A dream or vision that is rightly from God will not require verification by any earthly authority on the subject. If God revealed it in a dream or vision, He is capable of making it happen.
- **Does the message come out of a non-biblical environment?** Can God give any vision to any person, anywhere and at any time? Yes. However, we know Satan has an agenda. Dreams or visions which come from cultic sources are always suspect.

Summary

In the Last Days, God will pour out His Spirit. It is not simply a probability—It’s a promise. He will anoint and equip the unlikely in new and exciting ways. He will impart truth, insight, warnings, and encouragement to young and old, men and women, rich and poor. Believers should expect this, but also be on watch for false teachings. A watchman is called to be light to the world. They are to study, discern between right and wrong, and point out errors (wisely and lovingly). Be aware of what is happening in the world. Follow the news. Be able to speak intelligently about prophetic events. Work hard to strengthen your witness.

The first step in being able to discern the truth is to be in relationship with the Jesus Christ who referred to Himself as “the

Way, the Truth and the Life" (John 14:6). Real hope and peace come when a sinner confesses their sins, turns to God, and accepts Jesus into their heart as Lord and Savior. From that decision flows forgiveness, joy, hope, and the promise of eternity in Heaven.

SIMPLE WATER PURIFICATION TECHNIQUES

There are easy and simple ways to purify water. Noted below are a few common methods of water purification.

Boiling

This is a reliable way to purify water. However, boiling uses fuel and takes some time. Additionally, you will need to filter the water to remove all solid particles, especially if the water was taken from a poor water source.

Use Iodine solution, tablets or crystals

This is an effective and more convenient method. Iodine has the ability to kill viruses and bacteria. Iodine tablets are lightweight and easy to use. However, it takes about thirty minutes before you can drink the treated water, it is not suitable for pregnant women, and iodine-treated water has an aftertaste. *Tip for canteens: Once you drop the tablet into the water container, shake the container and hold the bottle upside down and have the lid slightly unscrewed to allow the iodine to flow into the threads of the bottle cap.*

Use chlorine drops

Chlorine has the ability to kill bacteria in water. It is also lightweight, affordable, and easily accessible. You need to wait for thirty minutes before you can drink the treated water. Note: Use a small amount. High doses of chlorine is hazardous to your health.

Use a water filter

Water filters (typically involving carbon) are fast-acting, can remove bacteria in water, and do not leave an after taste, but do not remove viruses. This option is generally less mobile and more

expensive than iodine or chlorine tablets. Note: Typical carbon filters need to be replaced after treating several gallons of water.

Use Ultraviolet Light

An ultraviolet light filter will look similar to a small flashlight. Simply swish it around in the water for a few minutes to remove harmful bacteria. Ultraviolet lights are easy to carry and easy to use. However, they do need batteries, and do not work well with very poor water sources.

Use PLAIN (Unscented) Bleach

Disinfect water using household bleach if you can't boil water. Only use regular, unscented chlorine bleach products that are suitable for disinfection and sanitization as indicated on the label. The label may say that the active ingredient contains 6 or 8.25% of sodium hypochlorite. Do not use scented, color safe, or bleaches with added cleaners. If the water is cloudy, let it settle and filter it through a clean cloth, paper towel, or coffee filter.

- Use the table below as a guide to decide the amount of bleach you should add to the water, for example, 8 drops of 6% bleach, or 6 drops of 8.25% bleach, to each gallon of water. Double the amount of bleach if the water is cloudy, colored, or very cold.
- Stir and let stand for 30 minutes. The water should have a slight chlorine odor. If it doesn't, repeat the dosage and let stand for another 15 minutes before use.
- If the chlorine taste is too strong, pour the water from one clean container to another and let it stand for a few hours before use.

Volume of Water	Amount of 6% Bleach to Add*	Amount of 8.25% Bleach to Add*
1 quart/liter	2 drops	2 drops
1 gallon	8 drops	6 drops
2 gallons	16 drops (1/4 tsp)	12 drops (1/8 teaspoon)
4 gallons	1/3 teaspoon	1/4 teaspoon
8 gallons	2/3 teaspoon	1/2 teaspoon

Creating A Self-Sustaining Garden

Contrary to popular belief, gardening does not have to be an expensive venture! Especially when using self-sustaining, organic methods that can keep your soil full of life, and your family fed with fresh vegetables. So, with that said – here are some great ways to create a self-sustaining garden.

“Take care of your soil – and it will take care of you.” For a long-term productive and successful garden – those words say it all. Soil is the basis for everything that can go right or wrong in a garden – and it doesn’t have to cost you an arm and a leg to create it.

In fact, you can build great vitality and health into your soil by practicing three simple low-cost methods.

Compost

1. Compost brings life and vitality to your soil! It’s not only easy to make – but can be made for free!
2. Add a shovel full of compost to each of your planting holes every Spring to give lasting nutrients to your veggies as they grow. It also makes good mulch around plants – not only holding moisture in while holding back weeds but supplying

the plant with nutrients that leach into the soil and the plant's roots. In the fall – if you have enough – top dress your planting rows with more compost to give life back to the just farmed soil. If you are starting new, use a good compost starter **to** get your pile off to a great start.

Mulch and Cover crops

1. Shredded leaves, straw, compost and grass clippings are all excellent mulches that not only help control weeds and feed your plants – but also add valuable organic matter back into your soil as they decompose. *Note: you can usually find all the free mulch material you need from local landscapers, or by picking up fall leaves and storing them.*
2. Cover crops, when planted in the fall or as a quick green manure crop in the spring and turned over – are the perfect way to replenish your soil from the summer's garden. Annual rye, clover, alfalfa or other choice cover crops are the lifeblood of a sustainable garden. Seed is extremely inexpensive (far less than a single bag of fertilizer!) and they have additional benefits as well, such as keeping out weeds, preventing soil erosion, and helping to fix nitrogen in the soil so that plants can soak it up.

Water Collection

[Rainwater Water Collection System](#)



Consider installing a simple rain-water collection barrel to your house or barn. Rainwater is an excellent choice to water your garden with – and by collecting your own – it's another free resource to have for your garden!

Saving Seeds / Growing Your Own Plants

When it comes to the plants you grow each year – there is little need to have to spend large amounts of money when you can save and grow your own plants from seed. The key is picking open-pollinated (often called heirloom) varieties that can be saved and replanted time and again.

Crops like garlic and potatoes tend to get stronger and more productive the longer they are grown and re-seeded into your soil each year.

Even if you do have to purchase a few packs each year to start new varieties, or to get started – they are inexpensive compared to buying established plants in nurseries every garden season.

Home Made Natural Fertilizers and Sprays

Pests and soil fertility issues will more than likely be minimal if you practice self-sustaining organic methods. Strong, healthy plants are much more resistant to damage from pests, which prey on weak species. And of course, if they are strong and healthy – there is no need for additional fertilizing!

But if the time comes that you must use something in your garden, there are ways to do it that are healthier and much cheaper than commercial alternatives. When you have aphids or other pests, use a simple, safe and effective home-made bug spray made from hot peppers and garlic.

For fertilizer, use a simple solution of compost tea on all of your vegetable plants in the early spring to give them a boost. It's simple to make, completely free, and gives them just a boost of nutrients to get them off to a great start.

6 Vegetable Gardening Tips

Light – Most veggies, especially those that bear fruit (tomatoes, cucumbers, squash, and peppers, for example) need sun, and a lot of it. Ideally, you want a site with at least 8 hours of direct sun per day. In less light, you can still grow some edibles; mainly leafy crops and herbs.

Soil – Healthy, rich soil is the key to a successful and productive vegetable garden, so don't skip this step! A soil test will give you an idea of your existing soil fertility and pH, and offer suggestions of what types of fertilizers or amendments will get your plot up to par. In my own garden, I rely on homemade compost, organic well-composted animal manures, and organic fertilizers like kelp meal and alfalfa meal.

Keep it small – A vegetable garden can be *low-maintenance*, but it's not *no-maintenance*. Therefore, do yourself a favor and stick to a small plot for the first year or two. A 4 by 8 foot bed is ideal for a starter veggie garden and will give you enough space to grow a handful of crops (see the next point). If you wish to start even smaller, try planting container-friendly veggies and herbs in pots or window-boxes on a sunny deck.

Pick your plants – With your first veggie garden, it's very tempting to want to grow *everything*! But I'd suggest focusing on 7-10 types of vegetables. With a multi-season garden, you can increase your yield by succession planting. When your initial crops have been harvested, follow up with a second sowing. For example, follow spring lettuce with summer beans. Succession planting allows you to stretch your harvest season for the longest possible time.

Invite (some) insects – Ok, this might be hard to believe, but most bugs are your friends! Think bees, butterflies, tachinid flies, ladybugs and more! To attract these good guys to your garden – and boost crop pollination – include clumps of insect-friendly plants like sweet alyssum, zinnias, cosmos, and sunflowers between the veggies and herbs.

Water, weed & feed – This might seem to be one of the most obvious vegetable gardening tips, but new veggie gardeners may not know when or how much to water. Newly seeded beds will need frequent watering, but most established crops can get by on one to two inches of water per week. To conserve water and reduce the need to irrigate, mulch your soil with several inches of straw or shredded leaves.

Side benefit: the mulch will also suppress weeds! As for feeding, quick growing crops like radishes and lettuce won't need supplemental fertilizers if grown in infertile soil. Long-term

veggies like tomatoes, winter squash, and eggplants, however, will appreciate a boost several times over the growing season. Give them an occasional dose of a water soluble organic food to support growth and encourage the biggest harvest.

Native American Homeopathic Practices

Native Americans believed that many plants had medicinal value. This chapter profiles some of the flowers, roots, berries and flowers that, in a crisis situation, could be used to provide relief for many common maladies.



Blackberry

Cherokee used blackberry for treating almost everything, including an upset stomach, strengthening the immune system, cancer prevention, improving digestion, and better heart function. By making tea of its root, this tribe healed swelling

of joints and tissues. And if you make a decoction from its roots, sweetened with maple syrup or honey, you will get great syrup for treating a cough. Chewing the blackberry leaves can also soothe bleeding gums.

Blackberries are amazingly nutritious because they are rich in vitamins A, C, B6, E, K, riboflavin, thiamine, folate, and minerals such as iron, calcium, magnesium, potassium, zinc, and phosphorous.

To the Cherokee, the blackberry is the oldest known remedy for an upset stomach, however this herb can be used for just about anything. Using a strong tea from the root of blackberry helps to reduce swelling of tissue and joints.

Some other health benefits of blackberry fruit include:

- better digestion
- strengthened immune system
- healthy functioning of the heart

- prevention of cancer
- relief from endothelial dysfunction

Noted below are 10 super plants and herbs known to have especially potent medicinal properties



Hummingbird Blossom (Buck Brush)

These tasty berries are also incredibly nutritious. Vitamins provided include vitamin A, vitamin B6, vitamin C, vitamin E, vitamin K, thiamine, riboflavin, niacin, and folate. Blackberries also have an incredible mineral wealth of calcium, iron,

magnesium, phosphorous, potassium, and zinc. They are also a good source of dietary fiber and essential amino acids.

Cherokee Indians used this plant for the healing of fibroid tumors, cysts, mouth/throat problems, and inflammation – They put the flowers and the leaves in boiling water for 5 minutes and drank the tea while hot.



Qua lo ga (Sumac) Sumac bark can be made into a mild decoction that can be taken to soothe diarrhea. The decoction from the bark can also be gargled to help with a sore throat. Ripe berries can make a pleasant beverage that is rich in vitamin C. The tea from the leaves of sumac can reduce fevers. Leaves can be

crushed into an ointment to help relieve a poison ivy rash. A study published in Iranian Journal of Pharmaceutical Research reported that sumac, if added to daily diet, can help lower cholesterol levels. Each part of this plant seems to have a medicinal attribute.



Cattail

Cherokee Indians viewed this plant as an easily digestible food, particularly helpful for individuals recovering from illness. Almost each part of the plant (except its seed heads) can be used for medicinal purposes. Its root can be prepared like potatoes, mashed, or boiled for treating sores and burns. The seed down from its flowers can be used to address diaper rash/skin irritations.



Mint

Being a very popular herb, mint is commonly used in tea because of its numerous antioxidant properties. It possesses phosphorus, magnesium, potassium, vitamins C,A, calcium, and fiber! Many native American Indians crushed the leaves of this plant and used them as cold compresses, ointments, or added leaves to bath water to calm down itchy skin.



Mullein

This herb soothes chest congestion and asthma. If you inhale the smoke from burning mullein leaves and roots, it will calm your lungs. This plant is exceptionally useful in soothing the mucous membranes. Due to its anti-inflammatory features, it calms the irritated and painful tissue and joint. Mullein flowers are used to prepare tea that acts as a mild sedative.



Big Stretch (Wild Ginger)

A tea made of the root of this plant is said to improve digestion, address colic symptoms, and calm an upset stomach.

Rootstocks from this plant can be used as a replacement for regular ginger in your favorite recipe.



Jiddu Unigisdi (Wild Rose)

The fruit of this plant is high in vitamin C and is a great healing remedy for the flu and common cold. The Cherokee Indians made a tea out of wild rose hips in order to stimulate kidney and bladder function. It is also possible to make a decoction from its root to

treat diarrhea.



Squirrel Tail (Yarrow) Being known best for its bloodclotting features, the leaves of this plant (fresh or crushed) can be put to open wounds in order to prevent excess bleeding. The juice of this plant, when mixed with spring water, might stop intestinal illnesses and internal

stomach bleeding. Its leaves can be used for tea in order to help in proper digestion and stimulate abdominal functions.



Kawi Iyusdi (Yellow Dock)

Cherokee Indians used this herb in much of their cooking because it's quite similar to spinach, *though it possesses more minerals and vitamins because its long roots gather nutrients from deep underground.*



Dandelion

Though considered a weed, dandelion root has a long history of therapeutic use. It is said that this plant has the ability to treat allergies, lower cholesterol levels, stimulate the production of bile, and detoxify the liver. It also has diuretic properties and it is especially beneficial for pregnant and menopausal women.

The best time to harvest dandelion root is in the spring, especially in the beginning of April. Make sure you pick it from places which are less polluted, such as areas away from towns and main roads.

The leaves are abundant in vitamins and can be added to a salad. The stem relieves stomach issues, stimulates the gallbladder function, regulates the metabolism, and purifies the blood. The stem can be used to treat diabetes while the milk from the stem can be used to remove warts.

DANDELION SYRUP RECIPE

Gather 400 yellow dandelion flowers and pour 3 liters of water over them. Then, cut 4 oranges and 4 lemons into slices and add them to the mixture. Leave the mixture for 24 hours.

After 24 hours, strain the mixture and pour the liquid into a pot. Add 2 cups of sugar into the pot and cook for about half an hour.

Once the mixture boils and becomes thick enough, remove from heat and transfer the syrup into sterilized jars. Use dandelion syrup to treat cold, cough, or bronchitis.

HOW TO PREPARE DANDELION TEA

Dry, chop and mince the leaves well. Store the mixture in a jar and keep for future use. To prepare the tea, you need to add half a teaspoon of the mixture into a glass of water. As simple as that!

Another option is to mix 60 grams of a fresh mixture and 30 grams of dried dandelion root. Put this mixture into a pan along with 2.5 ounces of water with a pinch of salt. Bring the boil, cover the pan, and simmer for about 20 minutes. Strain the liquid afterward and consume three cups daily.

ADULT FIRST AID / CPR/ AED



**American
Red Cross**

Adult First Aid/CPR/AED

READY REFERENCE **INFORMATION**



CHECKING AN INJURED OR ILL ADULT

APPEARS TO BE UNCONSCIOUS

TIP: Use disposable gloves and other personal protective equipment and obtain consent whenever giving care.

AFTER CHECKING THE SCENE FOR SAFETY, CHECK THE PERSON:

1 CHECK FOR RESPONSIVENESS

Tap the shoulder and shout, "Are you OK?"



2 CALL 9-1-1

If **no** response, **CALL 9-1-1** or the local emergency number.

- If an unconscious person is face-down, roll face-up, supporting the head, neck and back in a straight line.

If the person responds, obtain consent and **CALL 9-1-1** or the local emergency number for any life-threatening conditions.

CHECK the person from head to toe and ask questions to find out what happened.

3 OPEN THE AIRWAY

Tilt head, lift chin.

4 CHECK FOR BREATHING

CHECK quickly for breathing for no more than **10** seconds.

- Occasional gasps are not breathing.



5 QUICKLY SCAN FOR SEVERE BLEEDING

WHAT TO DO NEXT

- Give **CARE** based on conditions found.
- IF NO BREATHING—Go to PANEL 6 or PANEL 7 (if an AED is immediately available).
- IF BREATHING—Maintain an open airway and monitor for any changes in condition.

UNCONSCIOUS CHOKING

CHEST DOES NOT RISE WITH RESCUE BREATHS

AFTER CHECKING THE SCENE AND THE INJURED OR ILL PERSON:

1 GIVE RESCUE BREATHS

Retilt the head and give another rescue breath.



2 GIVE 30 CHEST COMPRESSIONS

If the chest still does not rise, give **30** chest compressions.

TIP: Person must be on firm, flat surface.
Remove CPR breathing barrier when giving chest compressions.



3 LOOK FOR AND REMOVE OBJECT IF SEEN



4 GIVE 2 RESCUE BREATHS

WHAT TO DO NEXT

- IF BREATHS DO NOT MAKE THE CHEST RISE—Repeat steps 2 through 4.
- IF THE CHEST CLEARLY RISES—**CHECK** for breathing. Give **CARE** based on conditions found.

CONSCIOUS CHOKING

CANNOT COUGH, SPEAK OR BREATHE

AFTER CHECKING THE SCENE AND THE INJURED OR ILL PERSON, HAVE SOMEONE CALL 9-1-1 AND GET CONSENT.

1 GIVE 5 BACK BLOWS

Give **5** back blows.

- Bend the person forward at the waist and give **5** back blows between the shoulder blades with the heel of one hand.



2 GIVE 5 ABDOMINAL THRUSTS

- Place a fist with the thumb side against the middle of the person's abdomen, just above the navel.
- Cover your fist with your other hand.
- Give **5** quick, upward abdominal thrusts.



3 CONTINUE CARE

Continue sets of **5** back blows and **5** abdominal thrusts until the:

- Object is forced out.
- Person can cough forcefully or breathe.
- Person becomes unconscious.



WHAT TO DO NEXT

- IF THE PERSON BECOMES UNCONSCIOUS—**CALL 9-1-1**, if not already done, and give care for an unconscious choking adult, beginning with looking for an object (PANEL 5, Step 3).

CPR

NO BREATHING

AFTER CHECKING THE SCENE AND THE INJURED OR ILL PERSON:

1 GIVE 30 CHEST COMPRESSIONS

Push hard, push fast in the middle of the chest at least **2** inches deep and at least **100** compressions per minute

TIP: Person must be on firm, flat surface.



2 GIVE 2 RESCUE BREATHS

- Tilt the head back and lift the chin up.
- Pinch the nose shut then make a complete seal over the person's mouth.
- Blow in for about **1** second to make the chest clearly rise.
- Give rescue breaths, one after the other.

Note: If chest does not rise with rescue breaths, retilt the head and give another rescue breath.



3 DO NOT STOP

Continue cycles of CPR. Do not stop CPR except in one of these situations:

- You find an obvious sign of life, such as breathing.
- An AED is ready to use.
- Another trained responder or EMS personnel take over.
- You are too exhausted to continue.
- The scene becomes unsafe.

WHAT TO DO NEXT

- IF AN AED BECOMES AVAILABLE—Go to AED, PANEL 7.
- IF BREATHS DO NOT MAKE THE CHEST RISE— AFTER RETILTING HEAD—Go to Unconscious choking, PANEL 5.

TIP: If at any time you notice an obvious sign of life, stop CPR and monitor breathing and for any changes in condition.

AED—ADULT OR CHILD OLDER THAN 8 YEARS OR WEIGHING MORE THAN 55 POUNDS

NO BREATHING

AFTER CHECKING THE SCENE AND THE INJURED OR ILL PERSON:

TIP: Do not use pediatric AED pads or equipment on an adult or child older than 8 years or weighing more than 55 pounds.

1 TURN ON AED

Follow the voice and/or visual prompts.



2 WIPE BARE CHEST DRY

TIP: Remove any medication patches with a gloved hand.

3 ATTACH PADS



4 PLUG IN CONNECTOR, IF NECESSARY



5 STAND CLEAR

Make sure no one, including you, is touching the person.

- Say, "EVERYONE, STAND CLEAR."



6 ANALYZE HEART RHYTHM

Push the "analyze" button, if necessary. Let AED analyze the heart rhythm.

7 DELIVER SHOCK

If SHOCK IS ADVISED:

- Make sure no one, including you, is touching the person.
- Say, "EVERYONE, STAND CLEAR."
- Push the "shock" button, if necessary.



8 PERFORM CPR

After delivering the shock, or if no shock is advised:

- Perform about **2** minutes (or **5** cycles) of CPR.
- Continue to follow the prompts of the AED.

TIPS:

- *If at any time you notice an obvious sign of life, stop CPR and monitor breathing and for any changes in condition.*
- *If two trained responders are present, one should perform CPR while the second responder operates the AED.*

CONTROLLING EXTERNAL BLEEDING

AFTER CHECKING THE SCENE AND THE INJURED OR ILL PERSON:

1 COVER THE WOUND

Cover the wound with a sterile dressing.

2 APPLY DIRECT PRESSURE UNTIL BLEEDING STOPS



3 COVER THE DRESSING WITH BANDAGE

Check for circulation beyond the injury (check for feeling, warmth and color).



4 APPLY MORE PRESSURE AND CALL 9-1-1

If the bleeding does not stop:

- Apply more dressings and bandages.
- Continue to apply additional pressure.
- Take steps to minimize shock.
- **CALL 9-1-1** or the local emergency number if not already done.

TIP: Wash hands with soap and water after giving care.

BURNS

AFTER CHECKING THE SCENE AND THE INJURED OR ILL PERSON:

1 REMOVE FROM SOURCE OF BURN

2 COOL THE BURN

Cool the burn with cold running water at least until pain is relieved.



3 COVER LOOSELY WITH STERILE DRESSING



4 CALL 9-1-1

CALL 9-1-1 or the local emergency number if the burn is severe or other life-threatening conditions are found.

5 CARE FOR SHOCK

POISONING

AFTER CHECKING THE SCENE AND THE INJURED OR ILL PERSON:

1 CALL 9-1-1 OR POISON CONTROL HOTLINE

For life-threatening conditions (such as if the person is unconscious or is not breathing, or if a change in the level of consciousness occurs), **CALL 9-1-1** or the local emergency number.

OR

If the person is conscious and alert, **CALL** the National Poison Control Center (PCC) hotline at **1-800-222-1222** and follow the advice given.

2 PROVIDE CARE

Give **CARE** based on the conditions found.

HEAD, NECK OR SPINAL INJURIES

AFTER CHECKING THE SCENE AND THE INJURED OR ILL PERSON:

1 CALL 9-1-1 OR THE LOCAL EMERGENCY NUMBER

2 MINIMIZE MOVEMENT

Minimize movement of the head, neck and spine.



3 STABILIZE HEAD

Manually stabilize the head in the position in which it was found.

- Provide support by placing your hands on both sides of the person's head.
- If head is sharply turned to one side, **DO NOT** move it.

STROKE

FOR A STROKE, THINK F.A.S.T.

AFTER CHECKING THE SCENE AND THE INJURED OR ILL PERSON:

1 THINK F.A.S.T.

- Face—** Ask the person to smile.
Does one side of face droop?
- Arm—** Ask the person to raise both arms.
Does one arm drift downward?
- Speech—** Ask the person to repeat a simple sentence (such as, "The sky is blue."). Is the speech slurred?
Can the person repeat the sentence correctly?
- Time—** **CALL 9-1-1** immediately if you see any signals of a stroke. Try to determine the time when signals first appeared. Note the time of onset of signals and report it to the call taker or EMS personnel when they arrive.



2 PROVIDE CARE

Give **CARE** based on the conditions found.

ITEMS THAT WILL DISAPPEAR FAST

Noted below is a list of priority items—items that will disappear fast after a catastrophic event. Items are presented in no particular order. *It is recommended that you stock up on these supplies as much as possible.*

Food & Supplies

- **Bottled Water** will be the first to go without fail.
- **Canned Foods.** People will just shove them into their carts without even looking at the labels. Another good barter item.
- **Rice, Beans, Wheat, Flour and Yeast.** All these basic ingredients will be traded in mass and quickly hoarded.
- **Other grains** that are either marked for human or animal consumption.
- **Water Filters/Purifiers, including bleach,** may be difficult to find after the first few days.
- **Charcoal.** Anyone without access to firewood will begin hoarding this immediately as they will see it as the only way to cook their food.
- **Chickens, goats, cows, pigs and all other forms of livestock** will be valuable. Measures should be taken to protect your livestock.
- **Cooking Oils.** They can also be used to make oil lamps.
- **Milk,** both powdered and condensed.
- **Salt**
- **Cast iron pots and Dutch ovens** are long lasting and are made to be used over an open fire.
- **Gardening Supplies** such as seeds, books, and tools.
- **Canning supplies** including jars, lids, pectin, etc.
- **Jerky** and other long-lasting meats.
- **Teas, Coffee, Gatorade, Kool-Aide, etc.**

Medicine & Health

- **Hygiene supplies** such as shampoo, toothbrushes and toothpaste, feminine hygiene products, mouthwash, floss, etc.
- **First aid kits**
- **OTC meds.** Tylenol, Advil, cold & flu, cough syrup, etc.
- **Toilet Paper, Kleenex, Toilet Paper, Paper Towels**

- **Vitamins and Herbal Supplements**
- **Alcohol**
- **Baby/Toddler Supplies:** Things like formula, diapers, bottles, etc.
- **More Advanced Surgical and Medicinal Items.** Braces, antibiotics, iodine, antibacterial ointments, etc. will be in demand.

Camping & Outdoor Gear

- **Guns, cleaning kits, ammo, misc. hunting and camping supplies**
- **Flashlights, lanterns, and glowsticks. Also, extra batteries**
- **Fuel and oil**
- **Bow saws, axes and hatchets, wedges, machetes, hunting knives, sharpening stones and honing oil**
- **Fishing supplies/tools**
- **Camo and hunting clothes**
- **Sleeping bags**
- **Gloves, wool socks and hats, and hand warmers**
- **Tarps, plastic rolls, stakes, duct tape, twine, nails, rope, hammers**—anything that can be used to improvise a shelter
- **Survival and medical related magazines, books and guides**
- **Gasoline and water containers**
- **Lumber and other building supplies**
- **Clothes pins/line/hangers** are often overlooked but important prepping items. They make life without a washing machine and dryer much easier.
- **Insulated ice chests** are half decent makeshift baskets and can keep items from freezing in the winter

Household Odds & Ends

- **Candles:** Unscented and long burning
- **Bleach.** Plain, NOT scented: 4 to 6% sodium hypochlorite bleach. This can be used to purify drinking water.
- **Knives and sharpening tools**

- **Backpacks, duffel bags**
- **Large garbage cans and garbage bags** can be used for trash, storage, water collection, hauling goods etc.
- **Cleaning and disinfecting supplies**
- **Paper, pads, pencils, sharpeners, pens, and solar calculators**
- **Sleeping bags, blankets, pillows, mats & inflatable mattresses**
- **Buckets of all sizes and shapes**
- **Plastic wrap and insulation**
- **Portable toilets or 5-gallon bucket toilet lids**
- **Weapons**, not just guns and ammo but also pepper spray, knives, clubs, bats, tasers, slingshots, pellet rifles.
- **Washboards, plungers, mop buckets with a wringer** for laundry
- **Aluminum foil.** The regular and heavy duty can be used for cooking.
- **Shovels, pick axes, hoes, general gardening tools**

Other Items Worth Having

- **Bibles and notebooks**
- **Theology books** such as commentaries, Bible dictionaries, Bible encyclopedias, a concordance
- **Duct Tape and Electrical Tape** can fix just about anything
- **Bicycles, extra tires, tubes, repair kits, pumps, chains, etc.**
- **Hand pumps & siphons** for gas, water, oil
- **Generators**
- **Lighters, matches, and flint and steel fire starters**
- **Batteries** Buy all sizes. Check expiration dates
Rechargeable batteries are ideal but costlier. Include 12v car batteries and solar recharger stations
- **Solar Power** Most people cannot go full solar but a basic (and portable) system could be built for a few hundred dollars and could power a few basic necessities as necessary
- **Gold and Silver**

HOW TO FIND COURAGE

When I was a young man and participated in competitive sports, I learned that victory did not always come to the strongest or fastest. Yes, victors are often strong and fast, but the X-factors—heart, determination, and focus, often trumped brute strength. In the Spirit, **courage** is a primary X-factor. Many believe that degrees, training, number of memorized verses, or service experience guarantee effectiveness in one's spiritual walk and calling. However, without courage, even the most talented and able will fall short of being what God has called them to be, and accomplishing what God desires them to accomplish.

Courage is an attribute that God appreciates, and believers must demonstrate. In a sense, this is one of the most important sections in this booklet. Certainly, being saved and forgiven is of primary importance, but living with courage is key. This has been true through the ages, but is particularly true in these last, dark days. What follows are a few thoughts and suggestions to help you develop courage—and inspire courage in others.

- **Know that fear will magnify a situation, and faith will help you manage a situation:** Fear often makes situations seem worse or more frightening than they really are. Fear is the opposite of courage—perhaps that is why it is one of Satan's favored weapons, for if through fear he can compromise our courage, he is more than halfway to a victory. Faith is the firewall for courage. If we pray for and work to strengthen our faith, then courage is guarded, and we are better positioned to stay on track. It is when we let our mind wander, and move from peace to panic, that we lose focus, heart, drive, and the ability to carry-on.
- **Fear and worry are cousins that feed off each other and inflame situations:** Know that allowing fear and worry to grow will never help and will always hurt. Yes, fear and worry are natural emotions that have some value, but allowing these emotions to run roughshod in our psyche will steal your joy and compromise your witness. When you begin to worry, begin to worship. Praise God. Sing, quote scripture, pray for others, and study the Word. Give worry no ground and try to squelch the embers of fear and worry before they spark flames that are difficult to extinguish.

- **Don't play the *what if* game:** Satan has a way of making this game sound attractive and helpful. After all, he will say, "Is it not wise to consider all options and possibilities?" Yes, the wise will consider options and establish contingency plans—but continuously asking, "But what if this happens?" or "What if that happens?" is a no-win scenario. We never fill in the blank what if I win a million dollars. It's often more like, what if a tragedy comes my way tomorrow. Satan knows this, and he loves to attack our minds. He loves to introduce thoughts of doubt and despair. Give him no ground. Do your best not to allow yourself to start down that slippery slope.

- **Redirect thoughts:** Satan attacks the mind (2 Cor. 10:5), so we must learn how to guard the mind. The best defense is to, as Paul wrote to the Philippian Church, focus on that which is good pure, noble, and helpful (Phil. 4:8). A few suggestions are noted below:
 - »» **Pray:** Remain in constant prayer. "Make your **every** need be known to him." (Phil. 4:6). "Cast **all** of your cares upon Him..." (1 Peter 5:7). The more you focus on prayer, the less Satan will be able to steal your joy, focus, and courage.

 - »» **Know what is going to happen:** As a pastor I found that many did not want to study prophecy or read the book of Revelation because these segments of Scripture speak of war and tribulation. But not knowing about the future only feeds our fears. Being ignorant makes us vulnerable. God has not provided insight into the future to frighten you, but to prepare you. Consider this: If you walked out on a football field in the middle of a game, and you were unprepared for someone to tackle you—it would hurt. Great players prepare for the hit. They expect it, and know how to counter or minimize its impact. Don't be afraid to find out what both God and Satan intend to do in the years to come. Yes, it will be unsettling, but not knowing will give the enemy an advantage (Eph. 4:27).

- » » **Don't go it alone:** God has designed things in such a way that we are better together. Two working together can accomplish more than two working independently. Find a believer who will be your brother or sister in the Lord—someone who will serve with you, learn with you, pray with and for you, and encourage you. Courage, as well as fear, are contagious, and no one is strong all the time. Find one (or more) to give you counterbalance when the tough times come.
- » » **Know the Word:** In Luke 4, at the beginning of Jesus' ministry, Satan attacked by skillfully tempting the Lord. Jesus overcame each temptation by **quoting Scripture**. Scripture is living and powerful (Heb. 4:12). Meditating on Scripture eases stress and can guard your focus. Responding to challenges and temptations by recalling and quoting Scripture shows wisdom, and honors God.
- » » **Take the long view:** The long view is, the Tribulation will only last seven years, the Kingdom of God and the glory of heaven will last forever. The pain and suffering of this world will soon be gone. Consider this, if you were to measure-out time, and you presented one million years as one yard, then the thinnest line you could draw to bisect the yardstick of time would be still greater in width than the 7-year Tribulation period the world will endure. And that is just for one million years. Our time in heaven will be millions of billions of years. Paul said it well when he said, **"The troubles all around us will soon be gone, but the joys to come will last forever" (2 Cor. 4:18).**
- » » **Focus on the positive:** Track blessings. Journal answered prayers. Share testimonies of God's goodness and working. Rejoice in every blessing, no matter how small. It is said that during the horrors of WWII, a young Corrie ten Boom and her sister were arrested by Nazi's and put into a concentration camp. Many gave up and perished in that camp, but Corrie ten Boom did not, and there is a reason why. Corrie focused on the positive. At one point, when food was scarce, rats were prevalent, and

guards were entering dorm areas day and night, beating inmates at random, Corrie sat on the floor with her sister and listened to her share her hurts and fears. Certainly, they were justified, but Corrie turned the conversation by saying, "Let's take a minute and think about what we can thank God for." Silence. It would be easy, thought her sister, to talk for hours about their many hurts and needs, but what was there to thank God for? Finally, Corrie offered, "Let us thank God for the fleas." Yes, they were horrible and made life uncomfortable, but the camp guards knew that their dorm was infested, and fear of the fleas kept them relatively safe at night (which was not the case for the other dormitory areas). As they thanked God for the fleas, it became easier to see and thank God for other blessings—they had each other, they were still alive, they had their faith, etc. In time it became easier for Corrie's sister to see the positive, which is what believers are called to do. Paul challenged, "In everything give thanks, for this is God's will for you..." (1 Thess. 5:18). Note that believers are not called to thank God **for** everything, but **in everything**, that is, in every situation, for God (and His many promises) are never far from His people.

» » **Know what is likely to happen:** This is difficult to write, and I do not pen this without consideration of your feelings. However, I think it best to bear in mind that most will not survive to the end of the Tribulation period. It is OK to pray to survive to see the 'glorious appearing' and return of the Lord at the end of the Battle of Armageddon, but it is a mistake to position yourself to lose heart, or faith, if that is not God's will for you. Do not have an, *I will have faith if, or I will believe if, or I will serve God if...* mindset. Our faith in and love for God cannot be conditional (**if** God rescues me, if He keeps me safe, if He provides food, if He keeps me from prison, etc.). I understand the desire to survive, and the inclination to link a good God with good times and blessings, but during the Tribulation period a great evil will sweep the land. An epic battle of good versus evil is waging, but be assured, God will prevail.

»» **Have the right goal:** At this point in history, the goal should not be to retire well, accumulate wealth, gain position, move into a nice home, complete your degree, or even to survive—the goal must be a servant and witness for God. The faithful will strive to be a witness to as many as possible in the time they are given. Your goal should not be to live long—but to live well, and finish well. There will be temptations (and perhaps opportunities) to run and hide. And it may be that God calls some to do that, and if that is what He leads you to do then by all means do it. But I believe that most will not be called to run, but to fight. I believe that most will be called to be a light, to be His voice, and to be His witnesses. Goals centered on living for God, serving God, and being a witness for God are achievable, and achieving your goals yields a deep sense of satisfaction. If a football player's goal was to score a touchdown every time he held the ball, or to be the MVP of every game, that player would soon become disappointed and discouraged. The wise player sets wise goals. In the same way, your goals must be in line with God's will for you, and in keeping with what is prophesied to happen during this phase of history. The world is about to encounter hardship as never before, but when hardships are encountered as spiritual goals are being achieved, there can be a peace, joy, and satisfaction that no one and nothing can take away.

»» **God will help:** I believe that God will help believers to be bold and brave if they make difficult decisions to resist evil and be a witness for Him. Scripture notes that many will be martyred because they refuse to worship the Antichrist. I am sure that many will be given the opportunity to save their lives if they just take the mark. It is likely some will say, "God does not exist, but even if He did, wouldn't He want you to save your life and follow the law of the land?" Compromising your faith and witness may seem like the prudent decision, and some may wonder how they can ever be brave enough to go to the gallows or speak for Christ knowing that the punishment will be severe. I tell you this: Jesus will help those who are sincere in their commitment to be obedient in those very, very difficult moments of life. So commit now to be

brave for Jesus later—and believe that He will stand with you, and will help you to be a bold, brave, and strong witness for Him.

»» **Think about the reward:** Those who die as martyrs during the Tribulation period will be recognized and rewarded by God (see Rev. 7:15-17). These saints will be given white robes (Rev. 6:11) and will return to earth with Christ to usher-in His Millennial Kingdom (Dan. 7:18-27). Further, during the Millennial Reign of Christ Tribulation martyrs will have the honor of sharing in administering God's work (Job 36:7; Isa. 60:17; Psa. 37:29-31; Jer. 3:15).

»» **The future:** Some may say the future is bleak, and from an earthly point of view this may be true. But believers are called to see with eyes of faith (2 Cor. 5:7). Do not focus on the pain of the moment, but on God's glorious promises for the future. Some believers may lose their home, job, or life, but the Christian who *finishes well* will receive an eternal and wonderful reward. Remember, Paul said, "To die is gain" (Phil. 1:21). The faithful will hear Jesus say, "Well done my good and faithful servant" (Matthew 25). Those who place their faith in Christ will reign with Him during the Millennial Reign. The courageous Christian will not be found lacking when their life's work passes through God's holy and evaluative fire (1 Cor. 3:13-15). Great things await the courageous and faithful. Therefore, be bold. Be strong. Keep your eye on the prize. Satan may have his day, but eternity belongs to the Lord. Be comforted in this Scriptural promise: "*...No eye has seen...no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived—the things God has prepared for those who love Him*" (1 Cor. 2:9).

It is often difficult to formulate a plan of action in times of crisis. In this section you will find a few suggestions for your next steps.

1. **Get a good Bible:** I encourage you to get a Bible that includes many study notes. These are often called Study Bibles. The notes

will help explain difficult passages and unfamiliar references. Choose a translation that is not a paraphrase of the original text (such as, The Way, The Living Bible, The Good News, or The Message), and a translation that is readable and understandable to you. In my view, good English translations include, but are not limited to, The English Standard Version, The New International Version, The New American Standard, The Holman Study Bible, and The New Century Version.

2. **Be aware of false teachers:** The Bible notes that many will come—some will come with the ability to manifest miracles. Their presentations will be polished and compelling. They will present false teachings and a compromised message. They will attempt to lead people away from the truth. Remember, God's Word, the Bible, is the best source of truth. Test all teachings against the Word of God and remember, though there are a number of interesting Christian speculative fiction books dealing with the Tribulation and the Antichrist (the Left Behind book series is one such example), recognize that they are fiction. Don't draw specific conclusions or seek spiritual answers from works of fiction. Look for answers in the Bible. The Bible needs to be your key source for truth and facts in these Last Days.
3. **Share your faith and connect with other believers:** Find true believers and spend as much time as possible with them. You will need each other as Tribulation period trials increase.
4. **Learn as much as you can as fast as you can:** Yes, spiritual things are the priority, but hone practical skills as well, such as first aid. Learn CPR and how to respond in emergency situations, because they are coming. Research medicine and medical treatment alternatives. Know that medical services and pharmaceutical access will be controlled and restricted in the future. Learn how to grow, store, and preserve food, operate a generator and solar powered devices, and purify water, because earthquakes, contaminated water, war, and a controlled economy are coming. Take measures to become self-sufficient and as possible live off the grid. But above all, learn the Word. Study Scripture. Learn what Bible prophecy notes is about to happen. Find study and prayer partners. Surround yourselves with the things of God. And because there will likely be disruptions in

online and power services and prohibitions on Christian literature of all kinds, I urge you to download and print copies of the study resources the I Am A Watchman ministry makes available. If you can, purchase non-digital study resources (physical books and DVDs). Seek out books by evangelical publishing companies such as Tyndale, Eerdmans, Zondervan, Moody Press, Life Way, Baker, and Nelson. Helpful resources could include Bible encyclopedias and dictionaries, a Bible thesaurus or topical Bible, and certainly Bible commentaries. Particularly helpful will be commentaries on the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John), commentaries on the book of Acts and the writings of Paul (Ephesians, Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Philippians, Philemon, and Colossians), and commentaries on the prophetic books of Revelation, Isaiah, Daniel, Ezekiel, and Zachariah.

5. **Urge people NOT to take the Mark of the Beast!** The Beast is a reference to the Antichrist. I shared earlier that the Antichrist will eventually assume control of all world systems—that includes the economy. By the midpoint of the Tribulation, a, for lack of better term, mark of loyalty to the Antichrist, will be required. Without that mark, most likely applied to the forehead, hand, or wrist, you will not be able to buy or sell on the open market. Taking that mark will probably be presented as a good economic decision— something that will foster global unity or better protect personal security, but it's a lie. Those who take the mark align themselves with the Antichrist and no redemption for them will be possible. It will not be possible for those who take the mark to change their mind later and become a follower of Jesus Christ. Don't take the mark! Many, perhaps most who refuse to take the mark will be put to death. Those who have stored medical supplies and have underground networks for food and water will be the most likely to survive. So, I urge you to store food and medicine and survival supplies, print and keep hard copies of Christian study material. Hide them. Cherish them. Establish networks for sharing and bartering, and note, these must be with strong Christians because, at some point, your life will depend on whom you work with and communicate.

For an extensive coverage of the Mark of the Beast, see Section 06 – What Tribulation Saints Need to Know and the 08 – Mark of the Beast video teaching.

6. **Liquidate assets:** A new global currency is coming. Natural disasters and disruptions in services (power and water) are coming. Sell what you can. Stocks, bonds, and retirement accounts will soon have little value and restricted access. Invest in sellable tradable commodities or perhaps something that has intrinsic value such as gold, silver, medicine, or fuel. Downsize. Be prepared to be mobile. Yes, life is about to become very, very difficult, but God will not forsake you, and He has not forgotten you. He will help you to be strong and brave if you commit yourself to living well and finishing well. Remember, the goal now is not to survive—the goal is to Finish Well.
7. **Read the Word daily:** It honors God when His people strive to learn what the Word says, how to share it, and how to incorporate it into a daily walk. A chronological reading guide follows:

Additional Bible Reading Information – is found in Section 03 – Bibles

- Navigators Bible Reading Plan.PDF
- The 52-Week Bible Reading Plan

END OF DOCUMENT

Personal Message: "Brothers and Sisters—for we trust that you will see your need for salvation and realize that the only hope is to put your full faith, trust, and belief in Jesus. Read the book of John, especially Chapter 3. We will see you very soon...we are waiting for you in Heaven and want you to be with us. The entire motivation behind creating this Rapture Kit is one way we can express our LOVE for you, towards you, and to encourage you to take responsibility to do likewise. Reach out to others in a safe way...do your best, rely on the Lord. It will be extremely difficult for you...but there is a way to finish STRONG in this season of trial. GOD LOVES YOU!"

The I Am A Watchman Team

And ALL believers today that labor to provide you the breadcrumbs of our faith and pass our baton of faith in Jesus Christ onwards to you!

You are loved by God and by us...always remember that.