

The signs that we are living in the end times are all around us
I believe we are approaching the greatest event in world history

When you understand what the Bible says about the end times,
you realize that we are not appointed to God's wrath but
salvation through Christ Jesus – **1 Thessalonians 5:9**

- Jesus will return to take us to live with Him forever

I believe the end of the end times began in 1948 when Israel
became a nation in one day

- That began a clock ticking
- Since then we have seen prophecy after prophecy fulfilled
- They are unfolding constantly around the world
- There is no mathematical chance that these events could be accidental

They are proof that there is a Master that is in charge and He
controls the world and the future

Approximately 30% of the Bible is prophecy and most of that
centers around the end times and our generation

- When you understand Bible prophecy you can contextualize the events happening around the world
- While some are confused and frightened we can be calm and comforted

Matthew 24:22 (NKJV)

²² And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.

- We are living in very serious times

God knows it, and for our sake He has given us prophecy to understand the times and seasons we are living in to instruct and comfort us

1 Thessalonians 5:9–11 (NKJV)

⁹ For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.

¹¹ Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.

There are many other world religions yet not one of them can predict the future with accuracy

- The only one who can foretell the future is the One who controls it
- Our God is the only True God and He controls all things

We are the only people on earth today that have empirical, measurable, definable proof that our God is real, and our Bible is inspired by Him

- Prophecy gives us that proof

Five Truths About Bible Prophecy

The only one who can predict the future with absolute certainty is the one who controls it

- God controls the future, therefore His message about the future is our only reliable source of truth about it

God gives us prophecy to warn unbelievers and comfort those who believe

- How do you respond when you hear Bible prophecies?
- Are you fearful that you aren't ready for the return of the Lord?
- Do you need to make some changes in your life?
- Or are you hopeful?
- A proper understanding of Bible Prophecy will remove fear and dread and actually cause us to look forward to it

Prophecy gives us the assurance that all of the Bible is true

- The bible tells the truth about the future
- We know this because many things the Bible tells us will happen have already come true
- This gives us concrete evidence that the Bible and all of its prophecies are true

The Bible and the Christian faith have no rival that can help us in predicting and understanding the future

- No other book, and no other religion even comes close
- There is only one God and His version of future events is our only sure picture of what will happen in the future

Confirmation of the Bible's truth depends on the truth of its prophetic writings

- If those prophecies don't come true, then the entire Bible is in jeopardy including what it says about Jesus Christ
- There is no mystery
- Bible truths are easy to measure
- We can know the accuracy of the Bible's prophecies because they are specific

Matthew 24:32–34 (NKJV)

³² “Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer *is* near. ³³ So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors! ³⁴ Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place.

- Jesus spoke these words standing at Jerusalem's Temple Mount
- Ground Zero for Bible prophecy

When Jesus was questioned about the signs of His return He told them this parable

- He said that all of these events would happen in a single generation
- Many of these events have already taken place with many still to come
- I believe we are the generation Jesus was referencing

Bible Prophecies Regarding Israel

Israel is gathered twice

Isaiah 11:10–12 (NKJV)

¹⁰ “And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, Who shall stand as a banner to the people; For the Gentiles shall seek Him, And His resting place shall be glorious.” ¹¹ It shall come to pass in that day *That* the LORD shall set His hand again the second time To recover the remnant of His people who are left, From Assyria and Egypt, From Pathros and Cush, From Elam and Shinar, From Hamath and the islands of the sea. ¹² He will set up a banner for the nations, And will assemble the outcasts of Israel, And gather together the dispersed of Judah From the four corners of the earth.

For 70 years a defeated Israel suffered languish in Babylon because of their idolatry and rejection of God

- God promised to bring His people back to their land which He did
- The return began in 586 BC and by 516 BC the temple had been rebuilt
- The temple was destroyed, and the Jews were scattered in AD 70
- In 1948 God fulfilled His promise again
- For almost 2000 years the Hebrew people had been scattered around the world
- They managed to survive and even thrive in various times of both comfort and persecution

After extreme persecution under the Nazis there was a final and miraculous move back to their homeland for the second time, just as Isaiah had prophesied

Israel Born in One Day

Isaiah 66:8 (NKJV)

⁸ Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Shall the earth be made to give birth in one day? *Or* shall a nation be born at once? For as soon as Zion was in labor, She gave birth to her children.

May 14, 1948 Great Britain's colonial mandate for Palestine expired, and they released the territory

Before the day was over, David Ben-Gurion, the head of the Jewish agency announced the establishment of the State of Israel

- U.S. President Harry Truman was quick to recognize the new nation on the very same day
- Other nations followed his lead
- Israel became a nation in one day just as Isaiah prophesied

Israel is Regathered from the North

As the nation began to rebuild, Jewish people came from around the world

- Many from Europe or the Americas
- Large groups came from Russia
- Between January 1989 and December 2002, 1.1 million Russian Jews immigrated to Israel
- Russian President Mikhail Gorbachev opened the borders allowing Jews to leave – Many of them Messianic Jews
- Unwittingly fulfilling Jeremiah's Prophecy

Jeremiah 16:14–15 (NKJV)

¹⁴ “Therefore behold, the days are coming,” says the LORD, “that it shall no more be said, ‘The LORD lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of Egypt,’ ¹⁵ but, ‘The LORD lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north and from all the lands where He had driven them.’ For I will bring them back into their land which I gave to their fathers.

Jerusalem is Retaken by the Jews

After many years of desolation and control by Gentile (non-Jewish) nations, Jesus said Israel would be re-captured by the Jewish people

Luke 21:20–24 (NKJV)

²⁰ “But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near. ²¹ Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her. ²² For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. ²³ But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! For there will be great distress in the land and wrath upon this people. ²⁴ And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

- The beginning of this prophecy was in AD 70
- Roman General Titus invaded Israel and finally destroyed the city of Jerusalem
- The Jewish people were scattered throughout the world
- They remained scattered for approximately 1900 years
- In 1948 they began their return
- In 1967 Israel engaged in the Arab-Israeli Six Day war

On June 10, 1967 the Jews regained control and remains in their hands today

The Bible contains the story of God and His love for people

- Specifically, His covenant with the people of Israel
- Through Israel, God would show His love and bring salvation to the entire world
- Israel is not inconsequential, it is essential
- The Bible demonstrates that time and time again

They Were Created by God

Genesis 12:1–3 (NKJV)

Now the LORD had said to Abram: “Get out of your country, from your family And from your father’s house, To a land that I will show you. ² I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

- The Bible repeatedly affirms that Israel is the only nation ever created by God
- Israel’s existence is testimony of God’s existence

The survival of the people of Israel is one proof of God’s active providence in the lives of people

“By showing His willingness to give salvation and victory to the Israelites, who are smaller and weaker than their foes, God gives us reason to believe He will do the same for anyone else.”

– Jon Huntzinger (Professor, The Kings University)

They Are in Eternal Covenant with God

Genesis 17:1–8 (NKJV)

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, “I *am* Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless. ² And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly.” ³ Then Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying: ⁴ “As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, and you shall be a father of many nations. ⁵ No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of many nations. ⁶ I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷ And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you. ⁸ Also I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.”

- God made a covenant with His people, and it is everlasting
- It is still in force to this present day
- This includes both the land and the people
- It is a *land promise* and a *people promise*
- Salvation comes only through the blood sacrifice of Jesus Christ – Available to all Jewish or non-Jewish people
- A Jewish person cannot be eternally saved without receiving Jesus by faith
- Yet God maintains a special covenant with Israel

A Blessing to the Nations

God told Abraham that in him all the families of the earth shall be blessed – **Genesis 12:3**

God said He would bless the Jewish people to be a blessing to the world more than any other nation

The Jewish people gave us the most important Man in all human history – Jesus Christ

- He is our Messiah
- He is a Jew
- I could never understand a Christian that hates the Jews

The Jewish people gave us the most important book in the history of the world – The bible

- Jewish people wrote every word in it

This Jewish book gives us the light by which we can live our lives and know God's intention even after we leave this world

The Jewish people gave us the most important organization – The Church

- On the day of Pentecost, the Church was born
- 100 of those to first receive the Holy spirit were Jewish

Those early Jewish believers heard the Holy Spirit and as a result you and I have been grafted in – **Romans 11**

Israel is God's Bellwether

The leading sheep in a flock is called a bellwether

- It wears a bell around its neck and is first in line
- Metaphorically, an indicator or predictor of an event that will happen in the future
- In a real sense Israel, is God's prophetic stopwatch

Joel 2:31–3:2 (NKJV)

³¹ The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD. ³² And it shall come to pass *That* whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, As the LORD has said, Among the remnant whom the LORD calls.

¹ "For behold, in those days and at that time, When I bring back the captives of Judah and Jerusalem, ² I will also gather all nations, And bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; And I will enter into judgment with them there On account of My people, My heritage Israel, Whom they have scattered among the nations; They have also divided up My land.

- This return began in 1948 and has been happening ever since
- God says He will bring them to the Valley of Jehoshaphat – *'Yahweh has judged.'*
- This is referring to Armageddon, where the final scene of human history will occur
- We are fast approaching this event

Three Signs that We are the Generation that will See the Fulfillment of the Prophecy in Joel 2 and 3

Rebirth and Re-gathering

We see here that it is clear that the regathering of Israel to their homeland and the battle of Armageddon are in the same timeframe – **Joel 3:1-2** *in those days, at that time, I will also*

Division of the Land

From 2006 to 2016 the United Nations Human Rights Council has criticized Israel 68 times (*three times more than any other nation*)

- Of the 97 resolutions adopted by the UN General Assembly between 2012 and 2015, 83 were against Israel
- They have also accused Israel of being a “racist state”
- Clearly the UN opposes Israel
- The UN has compelled Israel to concede land several times
- Israel continues to yield land yet there is no lasting peace

The more land that is given to the Palestinians, the more opportunities for terrorist acts against Israel

The UN as well as some political leaders in the US are actively working to force Israel into a two-party solution with the Palestinians

The Palestinian leaders refuse to recognize Israel’s right to exist

This very small piece of land not only belongs to Israel but to God Himself

These prophecies written over 2000 years ago state that the final scene in human history will be set with the entire world converging in battle against a tiny, insignificant nation in the middle east

Coming Armageddon

Zechariah 12:2–3 (NKJV)

² “Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem. ³ And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it.

- A Very Heavy Stone – Israel will find herself in an impossible political situation
- On May 14, 2018 the US embassy was moved to Jerusalem
- 14 of 15 members of the UN Security Council condemned the US decision – none of our allies supported the decision

After the decision the Palestinians, as well as several other countries angrily and violently demonstrated in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip

- Jerusalem has indeed become “a very heavy stone”