

Fulfilled Prophecy : The Beginning Of Sorrows : Part 1

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Immutability Of God's Word, Beginning Of Sorrows, The Four Horsemen, A Century Of Wars, Wartime Death Toll Tables, None Would Survive, Nuclear Accidents, Indian-Pakistani Conflict, Russian And Chinese Relations, NATO's Expansionist Policies

A Note From The WordWeaver - March 20, 2011

While some of the world events that are discussed in this series are a bit dated, being as this series was originally written in 1999, nevertheless, they help to establish, validate and confirm the primary message of this series; and that is that the Word of God -- the Bible -- is true, it is accurate, and every single one of its prophecies has been -- or will be -- fulfilled to the letter in God's chosen time according to His Divine Timetable. This includes those prophecies which were written by the Old Testament Prophets, those which were spoken by Jesus in the Gospels, and those which were written by the Apostles in the pages of the New Testament. If we are indeed living in the Endtime, and if we have possibly already witnessed the onset of the Beginning of Sorrows, what does this mean for those of us who trust in Jesus Christ, as well as for the rest of the world?

What I personally also find amazing, is the fact that since I first wrote this series twelve years ago, the Endtime signs which I discuss in this series have only increased in both intensity and frequency, despite attempts by officials of the world's governments to downplay this fact. The major earthquakes -- and sometimes accompanying tsunamis -- which have struck Japan, Indonesia and the Indian Ocean region, New Zealand and the islands of the South Pacific, Haiti, Peru and Chile -- some of which have ranged from 8.0 to 9.0 in magnitude on the Richter Scale -- are clear proof that this is so. Likewise, the powerful hurricanes and typhoons -- such as Katrina -- which have ravaged certain parts of the world during the past twelve years also validate God's Word, and what is written in this series. Need I also mention the devastating floods, droughts, Global Warming and other natural agents which continue to afflict mankind with increasing intensity? Based on these events, and other factors, personally, I can only conclude that the people of the Earth may be entering a period of intense Judgment from the Lord.

The WordWeaver

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After faithfully studying God's Word for so many years, if there is one thing of which I am absolutely certain, it is that God is not a man that He should lie. If the Lord says that He is going to do something, then He will do it; when He wants to, and however He wants to; regardless of what we mere humans may think, say or do. He is the One who is in charge, and not us. Consider the following verses which

clearly describe the immutability of God's Word:

"God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?"
Numbers 23:19, KJV

"I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him. That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been; and God requireth that which is past."
Ecclesiastes 3:14-15, KJV

"Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:"
Isaiah 46:9-10, KJV

"God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged."
Romans 3:4, KJV

"In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;"
Titus 1:2, KJV

Based upon the inerrancy of God's Holy Word, it has become clear to quite a few Christians, myself included, that we are now living in the apocalyptic times plainly prophesied by Jesus, Paul, John, Peter and many of the other Holy Men and Prophets of the Bible. At this current time, it is still a bit difficult to pinpoint exactly how far we have advanced into the final years of the Last Days. If one takes into consideration current world events, I would speculate that we are still in the time period which Jesus referred to as the "Beginning of Sorrows" in His Endtime sermon found in Matthew chapter twenty-four:

"And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows."
Matthew 24:6-8, KJV

We have but to look at this current century of the world's history, in order to see that the Lord's words have indeed come to pass; and that they are continuing to be fulfilled to this very day; exactly as Jesus had prophesied. It is interesting to note that the previous verses go hand in hand with John's vision of the Four Horsemen found in the Book of Revelation:

"And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see. And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer. And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see. And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat

thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword. And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine. And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see. And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth."

Revelation 6:1-8, KJV

If we first consider our Lord's reference to "wars and rumours of wars", not only have they indeed been many, but the collective death toll from these wars is nothing short of astounding. These deadly wars have included, but are not limited to, the Mexican Revolution, World War I, the Russian Civil War, the Spanish Civil War, World War II, the Chinese Civil War, the French Indo-China War, the Korean War, the French-Algerian War, the Viet Nam-Southeast Asian War, the Six-Day War, followed by another Israeli war in 1973, the war in Bangladesh, the Biafran revolt in Nigeria, the Angolan Civil War, the Mozambique Civil War, the Iran-Iraq war, the war in Afghanistan, the Gulf War, civil wars in Ethiopia, Sudan and Somalia, the recent U.S.-led aerial bombardment of Baghdad, the 1995 war in Chechnya and the renewed war in the same, and the various wars in the Balkans involving Bosnia, and even more recently, Yugoslavia. For a more in-depth look at my views concerning the aerial attack on Belgrade, please refer to the article "The Battle of Gog And Magog, And War In Yugoslavia".

Exactly how deadly have these wars been? As I said a moment ago, the numbers I discovered while conducting my research are nothing short of astounding. The following figures are provided to you courtesy of Matthew White's 'Historical Atlas of the 20th Century' web page. In sharing this data with you, please understand that, as Mr. White explains at his site, it is virtually impossible to provide one hundred per cent accurate data. This is due to a variety of reasons, primary of which is the fact that in dealing with numbers which are associated with death tolls from war, there is always a certain degree of manipulation involved, due to either political or personal reasons. In some cases, the numbers are purposely underestimated, while in others they are exaggerated. As the saying goes, history is written by the victor. Not only that, but during times of war, large numbers of people can be destroyed from off the face of the Earth without ever being accounted for. In such cases, one must rely upon a certain degree of educated guesswork, based upon the facts that are known.

Having said that, Mr. White assures us that he has consulted a wide variety of sources, and that he has tried to be as fair, accurate, and conservative as possible in his data. In the following table are listed what he considers as the top twenty wars of the twentieth century, and the approximate death tolls associated with each. Please note that these numbers only represent military death tolls. They do not include civilian deaths due to primary or secondary causes such as war-induced famine:

Death Toll :	War :	Dates :
20,000,000	Second World War	1937-45
8,500,000	First World War	1914-18
1,700,000	Korean War	1950-53
1,200,000	Chinese Civil War	1945-49
1,200,000	Vietnam War	1965-73
750,000	Iran-Iraq War	1980-88
700,000	Russian Civil War	1918-21
400,000	Chinese Civil War	1927-37
400,000	French Indochina	1945-54
200,000	Mexican Revolution	1911-20
200,000	Spanish Civil War	1936-39
160,000	French-Algerian War	1954-62
150,000	Afghanistan	1980-89
130,000	Russo-Japanese War	1904-05
100,000	Riffian War	1921-26
100,000	First Sudanese Civil War	1956-72
100,000	Russo-Polish War	1919-20
100,000	Biafran War	1967-70
90,000	Chaco War	1932-35
85,000	Abyssinian War	1935-36

36,265,000 Estimated Total Military Deaths

To add some balance to this picture, I will now provide you with a second table with some data from Mr. White's site which shows some of the same wars, but with civilian death tolls included, as well as other human atrocities which have been either directly or indirectly associated with war and/or political and social struggle. Between these figures and the previous ones, we should obtain a general idea of how many lives have been lost due to man's inhumane treatment of man in the events listed, during the past century. Please note that I have added footnotes to six of the listings :

Death Toll:	Event:	Dates:
50,000,000	Second World War	1937-45 a
48,250,000	China: Mao Zedong's regime	1949-76 b
20,000,000	USSR: Stalin regime	1924-53 c

15,000,000	First World War	1914-18 d
7,000,000	Russian Civil War	1918-21
4,000,000	Chinese Civil War	1945-49
4,000,000	China: Warlord/Nationalist era	1917-37
3,000,000	Korean War	1950-53
2,400,000	Vietnam War	1965-73 e
2,100,000	German Expulsions after WW II	1945-47
2,000,000	Congo Free State	1900-08
1,900,000	Second Sudanese Civil War	1983-
1,671,000	Cambodia: Khmer Rouge Regime	1975-79
1,500,000	Armenian Massacres	1915-23 f
1,500,000	Afghanistan: Civil War	1980-
1,400,000	Ethiopian Civil Wars	1962-92
1,250,000	Mexican Revolution	1910-20
1,250,000	Bangladesh	1971
1,000,000	Iran-Iraq War	1980-88
1,000,000	Nigeria: Biafran Revolt	1967-70
800,000	Mozambique: Civil War	1976-92
800,000	Rwandan Massacres	1994
600,000	French Indochina War	1945-54
500,000	India-Pakistan Partition	1947
500,000	Indonesia: Massacre of Communists	1965-67
500,000	Angolan Civil War	1975-94
500,000	First Sudanese Civil War	1955-72
365,000	Spanish Civil War	1936-39
350,000	Somalia: Civil War	1991-
320,000	French-Algerian War	1954-62

175,456,000	Estimated Total Deaths	

Footnotes:

a - Some overlap with Stalin. Includes Sino-Japanese War, but does not include post-war German expulsions.

b - Includes famine.

c - Includes World War II era atrocities.

d - Some overlap with Russian Civil War and Armenian massacres.

e - Includes Laos and Cambodia.

f - Some overlap with World War I.

Isn't that absolutely amazing? If we accept these figures as being close to accurate, between 36,265,000 and 175,456,000 people have lost their lives in this century alone due to wars, and the atrocities and side effects associated with war. In all of the research I conducted for this series, no other death toll figures for any of the other Endtime signs came even close to these! That is like twice the current population of Australia, or about eighty per cent of the current population of the United States of America! Man's wars and oppression against his fellow man have clearly been the most destructive force upon the face of this planet!

Perhaps now you the reader will begin to understand why it is imperative that the production and storage of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons be completely halted! If evil men are able to wreak this much carnage and destruction from conventional weapons, only God knows what he would do if Nagasaki and Hiroshima were repeated on a grand scale by many nations simultaneously, and with much more powerful weapons!

While I would truly like to be optimistic regarding this issue, the Lord's own words seem to indicate that the future of the world is not bright; at least not for the nation of Israel. In describing the Great Tribulation of the Endtime, which I personally believe will center in Israel, Jesus said in part:

"And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened."

Matthew 24:22, KJV

In other words, the Red Horse and the Pale Horse are going to ride hard in these final years of the Endtime; and if God Himself did not intervene and shorten, or limit, the days of the Great Tribulation to just three and a half years through the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, foolish, destructive man would absolutely annihilate himself! Nuclear, chemical and biological weapons have brought our planet nearer to the brink of destruction than ever before; and unless the evil rulers of this world are stopped, they will eventually play again with their toys of mass destruction, just as they did with Hiroshima and Nagasaki! In fact, they have been playing with their toys for a while now; and due to the foolishness of some, a number of serious accidents have occurred. Most are never even made public; however, a few have found their way into the mass media of the world. Need I remind you of Three-Mile Island, Chernobyl, and the latest incident which occurred in October of this year in Japan?

Three-Mile Island Being scanned for radiation contamination in Japan following the Tokaimura nuclear reactor accident. Chernobyl

Following are some excerpts from an AsianWeek news report concerning this latest nuclear accident which occurred at a fuel processing plant located in Tokaimura, Japan:

----- Begin Quotes -----

'We're Scared for Our Baby'

Japan Suffers Its Worst-Ever Nuclear Accident

Expressways were blocked, and trains stopped. Schools and stores emptied. The townspeople and those in surrounding villages were told to stay indoors with their windows tightly shut. For most of the weekend, Tokaimura, 140 km north of Tokyo, looked like a scene from *On the Beach*, the movie about a world depopulated by radiation from an atomic war. The residents shut inside their homes knew that something had gone dreadfully wrong at the nearby nuclear fuel processing plant, but for a long time they could only guess what it was and how dangerous it might be.

The nation's leaders were almost as much in the dark. Prime Minister Obuchi Keizo, concentrating on forming his new cabinet, was only informed a few hours after the accident began. He delayed the appointments and convened an emergency task force. But at 10 p.m. on Sept. 30, twelve hours into the accident, Chief Cabinet Secretary Nonaka Hiromu, could only say: "We believe that it is a severe situation, and there are concerns about high radiation levels."

Probably the last thing plant operator Ouchi Hisashi saw before he passed out was a blue flash in the concentration of uranium he was mixing in a steel vat. In an instant he and two co-workers were hit by a wave of intense radiation. Ouchi is believed to have absorbed about twice the amount of radiation that is usually considered fatal, though he may survive. His colleagues suffered lesser though substantial doses. Put another way, they took in as much as somebody standing within a kilometer of the Hiroshima atomic bomb.

Ouchi and his colleagues had just set off the one thing that nuclear workers fear most - a spontaneous, uncontained nuclear chain reaction. That happens when fissionable nuclear materials, such as uranium or plutonium, are brought together in sufficient quantities and under the right conditions so that a chain reaction begins. Such accidents do not usually spew out large amount of contaminated particles, as happened at Chernobyl, but they do give off intensive radiation. Levels around the plant were at times 20,000 times higher than normal. The accident measured 4 on an international scale of 7, making it Japan's worst nuclear disaster.

The uncontrolled chain reaction ran on for nearly 20 hours before it was finally stopped. Relays of power plant workers finally brought it under control by draining the mixing vat basin of water (which helps keep the chain reaction going) and by dumping the chemical boron into the tank (which absorbs neutrons and thus dampens the chain reaction). Each worker could spend only a couple of minutes inside the plant before absorbing the maximum radiation and still remain healthy.

Some of the people evacuated from the immediate vicinity of the plant returned home two days later, considerably more skeptical of Tokaimura's main industry. "We never knew that we were living next to such a dangerous facility," said one farmer among those evacuated. "We were scared for our baby," said a young mother. "As I understand it, babies are the most vulnerable to radiation." For the next few days,

hundreds of people lined up for free radiation checks, some of them bringing their drying laundry to be scanned too.

Sloppy plant operation and lax safety precautions were clearly to blame for an accident unprecedented in Japan. Ouchi and the two other plant operators were dumping the uranium into the vat from a steel bucket by hand. In other countries such operations are automated and calibrated. They seemed unaware that they were mixing highly enriched uranium, more susceptible to spontaneous fission than normal power plant fuel, and they put in 16 kg instead of 2. Plant officials admitted that they may have used an unauthorized manual detailing ways to cut corners.

----- End Quotes -----

Imagine; due to sloppiness, laziness, and a desire to cut corners, the lives of many Japanese citizens were placed in extreme danger. Of course, the Japanese government quickly implemented damage control, in order to pacify the nervous public, and quell the voice of the anti-nuclear protesters. Japan relies upon its fifty-one nuclear reactors to supply roughly one third of its electrical energy needs; thus the government has always defended the need for the industry, in spite of the hazards it presents, and the accidents which occur. In order to show how safe the situation had become shortly after the accident had occurred, the Japanese mass media displayed photographs of Prime Minister Obuchi Keizo in Tokaimura, eating a meal consisting of fresh vegetables and fruits harvested from farmlands very near the site of the accident; at least so the newspapers claimed.

If you are one who doubts my words concerning the threat of nuclear war, consider the fact that only a few months ago, the newest nuclear powers of Pakistan and India were flexing their military and rhetorical muscles with each other; and even went so far as to threaten to retaliate with the deadly neutron bomb, if the other chose to launch a pre-emptive strike. Despite warnings from other nations of the world, neither of the two sides showed any willingness to exercise restraint, by withdrawing from their belligerent and very provocative posturing. The recent underground nuclear tests conducted by both are a clear sign of how dangerous and how unstable the situation has become in that area of the world.

As if the situation weren't already aggravated enough, the hawkish United States of America, which formerly lent its support to Pakistan, has been quietly shifting its support to India; which it views as a strategic partner in keeping Communist China and Russia in check. China already views India as one of its most serious threats in that area of the world. Currently, it appears that hostilities between India and Pakistan may be temporarily defused. This is the result of a bloodless military coup on October the 12th, in which the government of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was toppled by Pakistani General Pervez Musharraf. Whether or not this is simply political rhetoric remains to be seen, but General Musharraf is currently claiming that the military will only remain in power, until full democracy has been restored to Pakistan. General Musharraf also appears to be making peace overtures towards India, by withdrawing Pakistani troops from the Pakistan-India border, as we see by these recent CNN news reports:

----- Begin Quotes -----

Pakistani Army Leader Declares Himself Chief Executive

Pakistan's army chief declared a state of emergency early Friday, suspending the country's constitution and naming himself chief executive, two days after the military toppled elected Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. CNN's Nic Robertson reported from Islamabad that military leaders had issued a "presidential proclamation" announcing the state of emergency, which suspended Pakistan's National Assembly and officially removed Sharif and his ministers from office.

. . .

Pakistani Coup Leader Vows Return To Democracy

Pakistani Gen. Pervez Musharraf, who took over the government in a bloodless coup October 12, pledged to form a National Security Council to restore "true" democracy, in a televised speech Sunday. He also announced a unilateral pullback of forces from the Pakistan-India border and said the military would not remain in power indefinitely.

----- End Of Quotes -----

At this current time, ex-Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif is standing trial, along with some of his associates, due to crimes against the state, according to the new military government. His fate will be determined soon.

Despite the current, and undoubtedly temporary, calm between India and Pakistan, the move by the American administration to align itself with India is not being welcomed by Russia or by China; both of which had already become alarmed due to the recent, merciless seventy-eight day aerial bombardment of the sovereign nation of Yugoslavia by American-led NATO forces; a bombardment which really has resolved absolutely nothing. The Russian bear is being forced more and more into the corner as American and NATO expansion continues to move ever eastward towards the Russian borders; but it will only be permitted to move so far before the Russians decide that enough is enough. May I suggest that you read "Communism: Is The Dead Beast Really Dead?" and "Communism: The Raging Bear Out Of Control" for a more in-depth look at this situation.

As a result of American and NATO expansionist policies, and the current trend to augment the number of nations included in the economic bloc of the European Union, as is witnessed by Turkey's current consideration for the powerful group, as of late, Russia and China have been warming up to each other; and have been emphasizing the idea of a multi-polar world; and not one which is dominated only by the United States of America. Consider the following two news reports. The first one was issued during the third week of August, 1999, by CNN, the American Cable News Network, and the latter report appeared in the South China Morning Post on August 26, 1999:

----- Begin Quotes -----

Yeltsin To Hold Summit With Leaders Of China, Central Asia

A re-energized President Boris Yeltsin is looking to further strengthen Russia's ties to China at a summit this week with the leaders of four Asian nations. Yeltsin heads to the former Soviet republic of Kyrgyzstan on Tuesday for a summit aimed at building stability along China's 7,000-kilometer

(4,340-mile) border with Russia and three Central Asian nations.

. . .

President Jiang Zemin and his Russian counterpart, Boris Yeltsin, yesterday discussed expanding their 'strategic partnership', and regional security issues. Diplomats traveling with the leaders said that during bilateral talks the pair expressed support for a multi-polar world and mutual opposition to Nato expansion. The diplomats added that opposition was also voiced against 'world domination' by the United States. The talks were conducted over breakfast ahead of a five-nation 'Shanghai Five' summit, grouping Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, on regional security and economic co-operation. Presidents Yeltsin and Jiang 'discussed further practical steps in the development of a strategic partnership between Russia and China in the international arena', Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov said . . ."

----- End Of Quotes -----

In addition to this recent warming up of relations between Russia and China, Russia and Belarus are also involved in the process of completing their union, as it existed prior to the post-Soviet days. While there have been some snags in the process, it will undoubtedly become a reality sooner or later. This is clearly evidenced by the following report from the London Times released the third week of October, 1999:

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To loud applause from Russia's Communists, Aleksandr Lukashenko, the hardline Soviet-style leader of Belarus, denounced the International Monetary Fund yesterday as a "pack of swindlers" and urged Russia to sell its missiles instead of seeking foreign loans. Mr Lukashenko, who has long advocated a reunion of Russia and Belarus, earned a warm reception from the Duma's Communist faction during a 45-minute speech in which he appeared to try to force Moscow's hand on the question of reunion and offered a novel way out of Russia's financial troubles.

'Why should Russia be on its knees before the IMF, begging for \$600 million,' he demanded, 'when one Russian S-300 strategic missile system is worth \$550 million? Why not just sell two of them?'

Mr Lukashenko is thought to be familiar with the challenges of selling off Soviet-era arms, having spent much of last year in the Middle East attempting to offload weaponry left in Belarus by retreating Soviet forces in 1991, according to human rights activists. He is also fond of demonizing the IMF, the World Bank and Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State who is among those most concerned by the idea of a reunion of the old core of the Soviet Union.

Yesterday, as protesters waved 'Hail Lukashenko' placards outside the Duma building, Mr Lukashenko said such a reunion with Belarus was imminent. 'From my talks with President Yeltsin I am convinced that he is fully committed to the idea of a union,' he said, adding that a treaty would be signed in the first half of December.

----- End Of Quote -----

In light of the Belgrade bombardment, it also seems quite possible that, with some work, Ukraine may also rejoin this union sometime in the future. This would effectively block the United States as well as NATO from expanding any further eastward. While the Russians are greatly concerned about the recent NATO incursion into Yugoslavia, EU expansion, and the American double-cross on Pakistan, due to their own political and economic problems, at this current time, besides forging closer ties with China, Belarus, Ukraine, and other of her neighbors, there doesn't appear to be much more that Russia can do concerning the situation, short of outright military conflict with the United States of America, and other NATO nations; and that doesn't appear to be possible for the time being, although Mr. Yeltsin would have the West to believe otherwise.

In part two of this series, we will continue our discussion by taking a look at the situation in Chechnya. In addition, we will discuss the recent so-called Russian terrorist bomb blasts, government psychological manipulation, trouble in the two Koreas, the current explosive situation between Beijing and Taiwan, and the fork-tongued haggling of the on-again-off-again Middle East peace process. I trust that you will join me.

Fulfilled Prophecy : The Beginning Of Sorrows : Part 2

War In Chechnya And Yeltsin's Bluff, Russian Terrorist Bomb Blasts, Government Psychological Manipulation, Trouble In The Two Koreas, China And Taiwan's Posturing And Rhetoric, Fork-Tongued Haggling Of The Middle East Peace Process

[Images Removed From Text Version]

The Clinton White House obviously recognizes the current vulnerability and weakness of Russia; thus, it is attempting to expand its sphere of influence in Eastern Europe while it still can. To add to Russia's woes, during the past several months, the Kremlin has once again been forced into sending Russian Federation troops into the troublesome region of the northern Caucasus, in order to quell a revolt by Muslim separatists in the republic of Dagestan. These rebels have been receiving military aid from their Muslim brothers in Chechnya, who have also been enjoying de facto independence since several years ago. Latest news reports are indicating that the war in the northern Caucasus has now expanded; and after weeks of a heavy air and ground assault, the Russian Federation troops have completely surrounded Grozny, the capital of Chechnya, and are threatening to destroy anyone who fails to leave the besieged city, as we see by these CNN news clips:

----- Begin Quotes -----

General Says Warning Grozny A Humane Move

Leaflets dropped on the Chechen capital telling civilians to leave by Saturday or face massive bombardment were a humanitarian warning, not an ultimatum, the Russian commander in Chechnya said Tuesday. The messages warn Grozny residents to leave the city by December 11. "There will be

no more talks. All those who do not leave the city will be destroyed. The countdown has started," the leaflet said.

. . .

Russian Ultimatum: Get Out Of Grozny Or Die

Russia's military dropped leaflets around Grozny on Monday, tersely warning residents they have five days to leave the Chechen capital or face certain death. "Those who remain will be viewed as terrorists and bandits," said the leaflet, read on Russian television. "They will be destroyed by artillery and aviation. There will be no more talks." The leaflet promised a safe exit corridor.

. . .

Russian Forces Bombard Northern Edge Of Chechen Capital

Russian forces launched a fierce bombardment of Chechen positions Tuesday, with troops approaching the fringe of the separatist republic's capital, Grozny. Meanwhile, Russian authorities sought to capture a key rebel leader by offering a \$1 million bounty for his arrest. Russian jets and artillery pounded at least seven towns and settlements across Chechnya, officers on both sides said.

. . .

Chechen President Talks Peace, Readies For War

Russian artillery and warplanes pressed their attacks around Chechnya's capital on Sunday, while the Chechen president called for urgent negotiations to end the fighting. The Russian commander in Chechnya, Col. Gen. Viktor Kazantsev, said Sunday his forces had taken a strategic ridge about 35 kilometers (21 miles) northwest of Grozny, on the south side of the Terek River that marks the northern third of Chechnya.

. . .

Russia Pursues Chechen Islamist Campaign

Russia pushed on with its operation to crush Islamist fighters based in rebel Chechnya on Saturday but said it would welcome talks with the region's relatively moderate leader, Aslan Maskhadov. There were conflicting reports over Russian troop movements as officials denied any military offensives had been undertaken near Grozny, where a Reuters correspondent saw Chechen fighters shooting at what appeared to be a military convoy.

. . .

Russia Girds For Second Stage Of Chechen Campaign

Russian troops regrouped Saturday near the Terek River and fortified their positions in advance of what a Russian general said would be the second stage of the campaign against insurgents in Chechnya. A Russian military spokesman said Chechen guerrillas were suffering "serious losses" in the latest fighting. A hospital in the Chechen capital, Grozny, reportedly was filled to capacity with wounded insurgents.

----- End Of Quotes -----

As we now know, the Kremlin made a last-minute change to its invasion tactics. The deadline for leaving Grozny came and went, and the assault didn't taken place. Instead, the Russian troops waited several more days in order to allow those civilians who still wished to leave Grozny, to exit through the two safe corridors they had opened up for them. This delay in the assault may have been due to the fact that some condemnation has been building up against the Russians in recent weeks. While some nations, like China, strongly feel that Chechnya is an internal Russian affair, others, such as the hawkish United States of America, have offered strong criticism against the government of Boris Yeltsin. Thus, by providing ample opportunity for escape, before undertaking such a brutal task, which may result in the death of many people, Russia's military leaders are trying to give the impression of being fair. However, the time has apparently now passed; and as we see by the following report, the assault on Grozny has begun in earnest:

----- Begin Quote -----

Russians Storm Grozny; Witnesses Report Heavy Casualties

GROZNY, Russia (CNN) -- Russian tanks and troops stormed central Grozny late Wednesday but were driven back and suffered heavy casualties at the hands of Chechen rebels, eyewitnesses said. Previously, Russian commanders had insisted they were not ordering an all-out assault on the rebellious republic's capital.

News agencies reported that a Russian armored column rolled into Grozny on Wednesday evening and was surrounded by rebel fighters armed with rocket-propelled grenades. The bodies of several dead Russian soldiers were seen sprawled around burning tanks and armored personnel carriers near the city center, witnesses said.

End Of Quote -----

It is rather alarming to note that in offering his expected rebuttal to President Clinton, Mr. Yeltsin resorted to using the nuclear arms wild card, as we see by these excerpts from another recent CNN news report:

----- Begin Quote -----

Yeltsin Warns U.S. Not To Meddle In Chechnya, Cites Nuclear Weapons

BEIJING (CNN) -- Russian President Boris Yeltsin, noting Russia still possesses nuclear weapons, warned the United States on Thursday not to meddle in the Chechen conflict.

"(U.S. President Bill) Clinton allowed himself to pressurize Russia yesterday," Interfax news agency quoted Yeltsin as saying in reference to Clinton's tough remarks on Chechnya.

"He must have forgotten for a moment what Russia is," Yeltsin, visiting China just days after being released from hospital, added. "It has a full arsenal of nuclear weapons."

Other Russian news agencies carried similar reports, saying Yeltsin deliberately stopped to make his remarks after a meeting with Li Peng, chairman of China's National People's

Congress. Chinese officials said on Thursday the Chechen conflict is an internal matter of Russia's. Yeltsin and Chinese President Jiang Zemin criticized the United States over what they called an attempt at global domination.

"Jiang Zemin completely understands and fully supports Russia's actions in combating terrorism and extremism in Chechnya," Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov said.

Yeltsin's harsh words were an apparent indication that relations between Russia and the United States have strained to perhaps their most tenuous point since the end of the Cold War.

----- End Of Quote -----

As I recently mentioned to some online Christian friends, I believe it is safe to say that Yeltsin is only bluffing, and playing the role that he and Clinton both play so well. I honestly cannot see anyone starting WW III over this issue involving sovereign Russian territory. At the very most, the United Nations, under American pressure, may give Russia the routine slap on the wrist by applying economic sanctions, but there really isn't much more that they can do to stop the Russians from bombing Grozny, if that is indeed what they are going to do. Furthermore, how can the West, and the United States and Great Britain in particular, even justify their criticism after what they did to Belgrade and Baghdad? It would be totally hypocritical for them to try to stop the Grozny campaign.

[Images Removed From Text Version]

To add to Russian troubles, since the last day of August, a series of mysterious bomb blasts, which are all believed to be related to the troubles rooted in Dagestan and Chechnya, have resulted in the untimely death of at least two hundred and forty-four people. Following are a series of news clips from various news agencies regarding the bomb attacks, as well as a few earlier reports which describe the beginning of the current conflict in Dagestan and Chechnya. Please take note that these reports are talking about five separate bomb blast incidents which have all occurred very close to each other within this short time period; that is, one at a shopping mall not far from the Kremlin, one at a military barracks in Buinaksk, Dagestan, another one at a nine-story apartment complex in Moscow, an additional one at an eight-story apartment complex in Moscow, and yet another one at a nine-story apartment complex in Volgodonsk as well:

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Attack Number Five :

Apparent Truck Bomb Kills 13 In Southern Russia

MOSCOW (CNN) -- An apparent truck bomb has killed 13 people and injured 115 in the southern Russian city of Volgodonsk. The Russian Emergency Ministry told CNN the blast occurred at an entrance to a 9-story apartment building, destroying its facade. Investigators believe the explosion was caused by a bomb in a truck outside the building.

The Rostov Region Interior Ministry officials said a truck pulled up to the first entrance of the building at approximately 6 a.m., and 15 minutes later there was an

explosion.

Attack Number Four :

Security Tight As Death Toll Hits 116 In Moscow Blast

Security forces combed railway stations and markets across Russia on Tuesday as the death toll reached 116 in an explosion that reduced an eight-story apartment building to a heap of bricks, dust and mangled furniture. Rescuers continued to search the wreckage for victims of Monday's suspected bombing in Moscow, the fourth major blast in Russia in the last two weeks. Search crews reached the building's basement, which was full of water from burst pipes. Children's toys floated in the muck.

. . .

Police Blame Bomb For Moscow Blast

A powerful explosion ripped through an apartment building in southern Moscow early Monday, killing at least 34 people and leaving dozens unaccounted for. Rescue workers with sniffing dogs were searching the wreckage of the eight-story building after the blast, which occurred shortly after 5 a.m. (0200 GMT). The explosion follows a blast Thursday that left at least 91 people dead. The Ministry of Emergency Situations said at least 34 people, including a child, were killed in Monday's blast.

Attack Number Three :

At least 23 people were killed and 150 injured when a huge explosion demolished a block of flats in a Moscow suburb early yesterday. The blast, which reduced the nine-story building to smoldering rubble, was said by the authorities yesterday to have been caused by explosives, and not by a gas leak as was at first thought. As the search for bodies continued last night, senior figures, including Yuri Luzhkov, the Mayor of Moscow, were linking the blast to the war in Dagestan . . . The explosion was the second on such a scale in Russia in less than a week . . .

Attack Number Two :

Yeltsin Blames Carelessness Of Military For Reverses

President Boris Yeltsin Tuesday blamed the 'carelessness of the military' for an incursion of Muslim rebels in the southern region of Dagestan and a blast at military apartments in which 61 people died. 'How did we lose a whole district in Dagestan? Why are there more terrorist acts in military compounds than in other places?' Interfax news agency quoted Yeltsin as saying during a meeting with Prime Minister Vladimir Putin. 'This can only be explained by the carelessness of the military.'

. . .

Bombing, New Incursion Escalate Dagestan Conflict

Gunmen from the breakaway province of Chechnya seized villages in Dagestan Sunday, hours after a deadly bomb ripped through a building housing Russian military families, an official said. The bombing attack, which officials blamed on the Islamic rebels, killed at least 14 people and injured

about 90. A spokesman at Dagestan's Interior Ministry said that local police were battling hundreds of gunman who seized two villages in Novolaksk region in the west of the North Caucasus region.

. . .

Insurgents Seize Dagestan Towns After Deadly Blast

Hundreds of gunmen from the breakaway province of Chechnya seized at least four villages in Dagestan Sunday, hours after a deadly bomb ripped through a building housing Russian military families. The bomb killed at least 14 people and injured 97. Officials blamed the explosion on the Islamic rebels who have been battling Russian forces in the region for the past month.

Attack Number One :

Terrorist Explosion At Shopping Mall Next To Kremlin's Red Square

At least 33 people were injured Tuesday in an explosion that ripped through an upscale Moscow shopping center just outside Red Square. Authorities said terrorists were responsible. Alexandr Zdanovich, a spokesman for the FSB, the Russian domestic security service, said it was clear that the blast, which originated in a video game machine, was the work of 'terrorists.' The explosion forced the evacuation of the busy underground mall and an adjoining area just outside Red Square, authorities said . . . Most of the injured were hurt by flying glass, authorities said. There were no reported deaths in the explosion, which happened just after 8 p.m. (1600 GMT). Authorities said the explosion apparently occurred on the third level of the Manezh Square shopping center, one of Europe's largest . . . Police and fire officials evacuated the complex, just steps away from the Kremlin's northwest wall, after the explosion. Police also cordoned off Manezh Square, nearby underground rail stations and streets . . . Interior Ministry troops were deployed to the area for added security. Security at the Kremlin was put on high alert . . .

. . .

Kremlin Begins Inquiry After Bomb Wounds 41

Russia on Wednesday launched an investigation into a bomb attack which injured 41 people, including several children, at a popular Moscow shopping center next door to the Kremlin. Interfax news agency, quoting Moscow ambulance service, said on Wednesday that 24 of the 41 people injured in Tuesday's blast were still in hospitals. "It is a terrorist act," said Moscow mayor Yuri Luzhkov . . .

The spectre of a 'holy war' spreading to the Russian heartland came a step closer yesterday when a man claiming to speak for Dagestani rebels in the south said that it was behind the bomb blast in a shopping mall yards from the Kremlin. The explosion injured 41 people and tarnished one of the crown jewels of Mayor Yuri Luzhkov's multibillion dollar restoration of Moscow, the giant underground Manezh complex. Fears of a broader terror campaign deepened when a caller to a Western news bureau in Chechnya warned that 'terrorist acts will take place on the territory of Russia as long as Russian troops remain in Dagestan'. The caller

claimed to be from the Dagestan Liberation Army . . .

. . .

Russian Troops Cross Into Chechnya

Top Russian officials have confirmed to CNN that Russia is planning a major ground offensive against the breakaway republic of Chechnya. "We expect the leadership in Chechnya to condemn international terrorism," Prime Minister Vladimir Putin said. In addition, Putin, quoted by Itar-Tass news agency on Thursday, said Russian troops have been crossing into Chechnya and do not recognize any border between Russia and the breakaway region.

----- End Of Quotes -----

From the previous reports, it becomes quite evident that when rich, selfish, centralist governments fail to respond to the outcries of their oppressed peoples, the masses eventually take matters into their own hands, whether their motivations are right or wrong. Given Boris Yeltsin's track record, one fact which appears to be certain, is that unless new Russian Prime Minister, Vladimir Putin, is able to bring the Dagestan/Chechnya situation under control, he may find himself unexpectedly joining the ranks of ex-Prime Ministers Sergei Kiriyenko, Yevgeny Primakov and Sergei Stepashin. As of late, Yeltsin does not appear to have very much patience with his underlings; particularly when they show any signs of weakness, or else pose a threat to his own position of power.

What I find particularly interesting regarding this entire situation, is that while the Kremlin has pointed the finger at the Muslim separatists as the perpetrators of the five bomb attacks, the rebels have denied responsibility for the same. Not only that, but now that the Russian government has apparently won the support of the Russian people for its military engagement against the Muslim separatists, the bomb attacks have mysteriously stopped. Similar to other writers, I can only wonder if perhaps at least some of the attacks were staged by the Russian government itself, so that it might win popular support for its current campaign in both Dagestan and Chechnya. We should never underestimate the corrupt, evil nature of man's governments, and what they will do, even to their own people, in order to achieve a certain objective. Playing psychological mind games in order to mold public opinion is nothing new. We see it happening in the American press all the time, do we not?

Turning our eyes towards southeast Asia, the two Koreas are also entering a very dangerous period as Communist North Korea continues to develop its program of weapons of mass destruction, while shunning American warnings, and refusing to give American inspectors access to its weapons plants. At this current time, the government of North Korea already possesses the ability to easily strike targets within Japan, which naturally has the Japanese government quite concerned. In fact, the Japanese are so concerned, that they have been adopting a more militaristic attitude as of late; and this is with encouragement from the United States of course. To understand how serious this is, you must realize that up until the last decade, Japan dedicated just one per cent of its Gross National Product to military expenditures and self-defense. If mass media sources are to be believed, North Korea may soon also be able to strike targets within

Alaska and Hawaii as well. As if this weren't enough, on August 23, 1999, the Associated Press issued the following report, in which the North Korean government states that a second Korean War is now unavoidable:

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Military exercises between the United States and South Korean show the two allies' rising militarism, making a second Korean War 'unavoidable', North Korea said Sunday. In recent days, Pyongyang has regularly said the 12-day joint exercises could lead to war, but it had not called hostilities inevitable. America and South Korea have been conducting war games to simulate a coordinated response to a North Korean invasion as part of their annual joint military exercises. 'The United States and South Korea are in a belligerent relationship,' said an editorial in the Rodong Shinmun, the newspaper of the North's ruling Workers' Party, monitored in Tokyo by the RadioPress News Agency. 'A second Korean War has become unavoidable . . .'

----- End Of Quote -----

At the same time, Communist China has also been flexing its military muscles lately due to the break-away island nation of Taiwan being rather vociferous regarding its independence from the Chinese mainland. Ever since Taiwanese President Lee Teng-hui recently expressed his desire for his country to have 'state-to-state' relations with Beijing, tensions have been extremely high. Both parties have been actively engaged in verbal posturing, and boasting of their military readiness and clear superiority in the event of a military confrontation. As of the time of this writing, the Chinese Foreign Ministry has declared that it will not resort to the use of nuclear weapons, should it indeed become necessary to re-take Taiwan. Despite immense verbal pressure from China, the Taiwanese leadership has made no effort to retract its earlier statements. Following are some fairly recent reports regarding this situation:

----- Begin Quotes -----

President Lee Teng-hui's recent affirmation of Taiwan's statehood is supported by the 'vast majority' of Taiwanese, and there is no question of it being retracted, the Taiwanese Foreign Ministry said Sunday. 'Special state-to-state relations' - the term Lee used to firm up Taiwan's sovereignty claim - was merely 'an objective description of the state of relations and has been embraced by the vast majority of Taiwanese,' the ministry said in a statement. 'This reflects reality, so there is no question of retracting or not retracting,' the statement said. The ministry's statement was one of the most emphatic defenses of Lee's stance to date, and comes after a meeting between President Clinton and Chinese President Jiang Zemin at which Taiwan was a main topic of discussion . . .

. . .

While declaring its resolve to retake rival Taiwan by force if necessary, China removed one threat today by promising not to use nuclear weapons in the event of a conflict. The pledge, issued by the Foreign Ministry, was the most explicit, public renunciation of the nuclear option China has ever given Taiwan and suggested a slight easing of their latest tensions . . .

. . .
Taiwan displayed some of its best defense assets on Wednesday amid tensions with China-advanced fighter jets that military leaders say give the island air superiority against the mainland through at least 2005. The display of cutting-edge fighters was staged to celebrate the founding of the air force academy, but it also seemed calculated to send the message that Taiwan can defend itself and won't be pushed around. 'The air force's successful front line is the secure shield of our nation's defense,' President Lee Teng-hui told air force cadets at the military base that houses the academy near the southern port city of Kaohsiung, 185 miles south of Taipei. Lee's appearance was seen as an attempt to bolster public confidence in the wake of China's renewed threat to use force to bring Taiwan to heel, although he didn't specifically mention the tensions on Wednesday . . .

. . .
China has reached agreement with Russia to buy two nuclear-powered submarines to deter any U.S. presence in the Taiwan Strait as relations between Beijing and Taipei worsen, a report said Wednesday. The billion dollar deal for the Typhoon-class submarines, capable of launching nuclear warheads, was reached during Russian deputy prime minister Ilya Klebanov's recent visit to Beijing, the Hong Kong Standard said citing mainland diplomatic sources. Chinese President Jiang Zemin and his Russian counterpart Boris Yeltsin endorsed the sale during their talks in Bishek, Kyrgyztan, last week, the English-language daily said. The sources said the submarines were aimed at deterring the U.S. Seventh Fleet from intervening in the intensified cross-strait relations following Taiwanese president Lee Teng-hui's call for "state-to-state" ties with Beijing . . .

----- End Of Quotes -----

Directing our attention towards the Middle Eastern arena, if you have been paying close attention to developments in the current land-for-peace process, and if you have been reading my articles concerning Endtime events, then you will already know that the Israelis and the Palestinians continue to play the same game of tug-of-war and verbal deceit which has for some time now been their regular custom. After months of extremely tough bargaining at the negotiation table, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak, and Palestinian President, Yasser Arafat, finally signed a revised Wye River Memorandum in Egypt, known as the Sharm el-Sheikh memorandum. While smiles and handshakes abound, Yasser Arafat continues to make clear that unless final status talks are completed by September of the year 2,000, he will unilaterally declare a Palestinian State.

Following are several reports which have been issued by various news agencies over the past few months. As can be seen by the most recent reports, radical elements continue their attempts to derail the peace process through violent bomb attacks, and the Jews and the Palestinians continue to haggle over the issue of land in their on-again-off-again negotiations:

----- Begin Quotes -----

Impasse On West Bank Prevents Handover

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat failed to resolve a dispute holding up Israel's scheduled handover of more West Bank land on Monday, and Israel's army says it won't leave the territory as planned. Israeli military officials said no handover would take place Monday, but added that "anything is still possible" as talks continued Monday morning. Both sides have been locked in a dispute over details of the land involved.

. . .

Mideast Peace Talks Convene Despite Bombs

Undeterred by a Sunday bombing, Israeli delegates and their counterparts from the Palestinian Authority began talks Monday aimed at reaching a final Middle East peace accord. The talks opened Monday morning in the West Bank town of Ramallah, just a day after pipe bombs injured at least 30 people in the Israeli coastal town of Netanya. Issues remaining to be settled include the status of Jerusalem and the future of Jewish settlements on territory Israel has occupied since the 1967 Six-Day war.

. . .

Bomb Injures At Least 16 In Israel

A pipe bomb exploded in a coastal town in Israel, injuring at least 16 people on Sunday, and police were trying to defuse a second device near the scene of the explosion. The bombing occurred on the eve of new peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians. Police said the bombing was a terrorist act, and a number of suspects have been taken into custody.

. . .

Yassar Arafat, the Palestinian leader, yesterday renewed his threat to unilaterally declare an independent state for his people if he fails to reach agreement with Israel one year from now. He issued the warning just hours after signing a new peace accord with Ehud Barak, the Israeli Prime Minister, in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh. The new agreement, known as the Sharm el-Sheikh memorandum, sets out an ambitious timetable of just 12 months to resolve almost all the major issues still dividing the two sides. Many observers believe the goal is too ambitious given that Israel and the Palestinians still have to resolve the most contentious issues between them including the future of Jerusalem, which both sides regard as their religious and political capital . . .

. . .

Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat said today that according to the guarantees he got from United States and according to the declaration of Berlin, a Palestinian State will be declared in 2000. Speaking to reporters on his return from a visit to the Vatican, Arafat said that the issue of declaring an independent Palestinian State was included in the declaration of Berlin, 'and in the letter of guarantees that I received from Albright yesterday.'

. . .

Ending months of stalled negotiations, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat signed a breakthrough agreement early Sunday to implement the land-for-security Wye River accord. International dignitaries attending the ceremony, including U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Jordan's King Abdullah II and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, applauded as the two men signed the agreement and embraced.

----- End Of Quotes -----

As we continue our discussion in part three of this series, we will further examine the Middle East peace process, as well as Israeli-Syrian negotiations. In addition, we will be taking a look at other volatile hotspots in the world. This will include the civil unrest which recently plagued East Timor in Indonesia, and the strong desire for independence which has spread to other provinces since then. We will conclude by re-examining terrorist bomb attacks. I trust that you will join me.

Fulfilled Prophecy : The Beginning Of Sorrows : Part 3

Middle East Plastic Peace, Jerusalem A Burdensome Stone, Israeli And Syrian Negotiations, Indonesia, East Timor And The Wave Of Independence Seekers, Terrorist Bomb Attacks

[Images Removed From Text Version]

Let me remind you again, as I do in various of my Endtime articles, that as Christians who are knowledgeable of the Biblical prophecies, we should not be deceived by these plastic overtures of peace; because the Scriptures plainly tell us that the current volatile situation will eventually deteriorate into bloody full-scale military conflict, as the Jews and the Arabs continue to fight over the ownership of Jerusalem, Israel's right to exist, and the fate of the Palestinian Arabs. Consider again the words of the Prophet Daniel who clearly describes for us the deceit which fuels Middle Eastern politics. Whether or not the following verse applies directly to Barak and Arafat remains to be seen. My current feelings are that it does not, but I could be wrong:

"And both these kings' hearts shall be to do mischief, and they shall speak lies at one table; but it shall not prosper: for yet the end shall be at the time appointed."
Daniel 11:27, KJV

For a more in-depth look at this topic, please refer to my many Endtime articles such as 'O Israel, Why Will Ye Die?'. One thing is quite apparent at this current time; the Jews have no intention of giving up any part of Jerusalem, which they claim as their undivided eternal capital; and the Palestinians will likewise not be content until they have secured at least half of the city to serve as the capital of a Palestinian State. As proof of my statement, consider the following report which was issued by Israel Wire on August the 19th, 1999:

----- Begin Quote -----

The Palestinians are planning to claim 6,000 buildings in

western Jerusalem under the final-status arrangements. So said the Jerusalem representative in the Palestinian legislative council, Hattam Eid. Among the buildings is the Ministry of Industry and Trade, headed by Ran Cohen of Meretz. Eid said that the Palestinians are making great efforts, including obtaining papers from Syria and Jordan, to prove their ownership of the buildings.

----- End Of Quote -----

So as you can see, both sides involved in the Middle East quagmire, are firmly entrenched in their positions, and are leaving very little room for flexibility and compromise; and this can only result in an eventual war of catastrophic proportions, which will draw in other nations which have strategic interests in the Middle East. As the Prophet Isaiah wrote so long ago, Jerusalem is indeed becoming a burdensome stone for the nations of the world:

"And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it."

Zechariah 12:3, KJV

Even as I write this, the Arab/Muslim nations of the Middle East continue to prepare for this coming decisive war, even though they continue to speak peace with their mouths, as is exemplified by the resumption of the Syrian-Israeli peace talks. All of the primary players, such as Iran, Iraq and Syria, are currently engaged in a mad race to perfect their weapons of mass destruction, for the day when they will make Israel burn. Consider the following recent reports from the Jerusalem Post and CNN. It is so clear that while they talk of peace, they prepare for war. Peace based on military strength and mistrust is doomed to eventual failure from the start:

----- Begin Quotes -----

Barak Wins Knesset OK For Israeli-Syrian Talks

CNN -- Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak will travel to Wednesday's peace talks with Syria, backed by support from Israel's parliament, swayed by his call for "painful" sacrifice. "If we miss this time," Barak told Israel's Knesset on Monday, "this might lead to bloodshed, God forbid. The condition is the Syrian delegation to the talks will be equipped with the same degree of determination and good will that we are taking with us. Peace is a joint interest," he said.

. . .

Syria Says Accord With Israel May Be 'Few Months' Away

DAMASCUS, Syria (CNN) - A peace accord with Israel could be reached within a few months, Syria's Foreign Minister Farouk al-Sharaa said Sunday, an opinion expressed as well by Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak.

"I am so optimistic to say that a few months could be enough to reach a peace agreement," al-Sharaa said in Damascus after a meeting with Egypt's foreign minister ahead of peace talks set to resume this week in Washington.

"I think this is a very important moment in the history of the peace process," al-Sharaa said in Syria's first official comment on the talks.

Soon after the talks with Syria were announced, Barak said he thinks an accord could be reached. He also he expected the talks with Syria would lead to new peace talks with Lebanon as well.

"It's possible within a matter of months, to achieve peace with both countries," Barak said.

. . .

Jerusalem Post -- Syria is sparing no expense in developing a new longer-range, surface-to-surface missile that will put all of Israel in range, Israeli sources said. The new missile, a derivative of the Scud C, is expected to be ready in six months to a year. The missile program tops Syria's military priorities, and Damascus is receiving close aid from Iran to develop the rockets. Once deployed, the missiles could be tipped with non-conventional warheads and would be able to strike at Israel from deep inside Syrian territory.

----- End Of Quotes -----

As further proof that the Lord's words concerning 'wars and rumours of wars' occurring in the Endtime are indeed coming to pass before our very eyes, please note that in addition to the previously-mentioned wars, conflicts and stiff verbal confrontations, we often hear of military coups and civilian uprisings occurring in such places as the volatile countries of Central and South America, and of violent, and oft times bloody, religious conflicts in such places as Indonesia and Northern Ireland, and of deadly tribal wars in the nations of Africa, in which thousands upon thousands of people are brutally slain, and of bilateral border problems between such nations and entities as Ethiopia and Eritrea, Israel and Lebanon, India and Kashmir, China and Tibet, Indonesia and East Timor, etc.

It seems that in our current time, the world is literally filled with dangerous hotspots which may erupt into bloody violence at any given moment. Consider some of the recent reports regarding the civil unrest and violent bloodshed which plagued East Timor, where on August 30th of this year, the Timorese people voted for independence from Indonesia. This violence, which was largely carried out by militias and rogue government forces which are loyal to the government in Jakarta, became so severe, and so brutal, that Indonesian ex-president, B. J. Habibie, was finally forced to yield to world pressure, and permitted the U.N., which is quickly becoming the world's police force, to send in peacekeeping troops in order to restore order, as well as to protect the Timorese from further massacre by pro-government forces. Since their arrival, these forces, which are comprised primarily of Australian and British troops, have had some encounters with the pro-Indonesian militias, which have resulted in some casualties:

----- Begin Quotes -----

Peacekeepers from the international force in East Timor killed three members of a pro-Indonesian militia in a new skirmish Saturday along the border with

Indonesian-controlled West Timor. The peacekeepers. a patrol made up of British and Australian troops, encountered the militia about 15 kilometers (10 miles) west of the frontier. It was the latest and most violent encounter along the border between West and East Timor, which voted for independence from Indonesia in an August 30 referendum.

. . .

Pro-Jakarta militiamen said they were ready to kill members of a U.N. force heading for East Timor Friday as the top bishop still in the territory warned of a new wave of massacres . . . Despite a relative calm in Dili, Red Cross officials said fresh blood on the streets showed that attacks by pro-Jakarta forces had not stopped. Smoke still hung over the city as the United Nations sent its first airdrops of urgent aid. The violence, launched by the militias and some elements of the military, was triggered by last month's ballot favoring independence from Indonesia. Thousands are thought to have been killed since the August 30 vote.

. . .

Indonesia faced world anger Friday over the massacres in East Timor and reports from the territory gave harrowing accounts of fresh suffering at the isolated U.N. compound in the devastated town of Dili. East Timorese and independent experts say thousands have probably died in the last few days in violence blamed on the Indonesian military. The U.N. compound in the East Timor capital Dili, a refuge for terrified civilians, was under pressure from pro-Jakarta militiamen who threatened to throw grenades over the wall into the complex, a journalist in the town said. Marie Colvin of London's Sunday Times reported from Dili that militiamen were still terrorizing the population . . .

. . .

The United Nations evacuated its besieged compound in the East Timorese provincial capital on Friday, as thousands of East Timorese refugees, forced into West Timor by pro-Indonesian militias, described widespread massacres and arson attacks in their smoldering homeland. Hundreds of U.N. staff, including mission head Ian Martin, boarded a plane for Australia on Friday morning, leaving behind a skeleton crew to continue working to help East Timor's transition to independence.

. . .

East Timor's embattled capital Dili continued to burn Wednesday in the latest wave of militia violence, as emergency talks got under way in Jakarta with U.N. representatives. Up to a third of the East Timor population has been forced out of the territory in an attempt by the militias to wreck last week's referendum, which overwhelmingly favored independence from Indonesia.

. . .

Indonesia's military chief held crisis talks on Sunday as pro-Indonesia militiamen rampaged unchallenged and East Timor descended into chaos. General Wiranto flew in as part of a hastily organized crisis team of ministers. As they landed in Dili, the East Timorese capital, dozens of

terrified and crying Indonesians were running the other way to get on military flights and escape the violence unleashed after East Timor rejected Jakarta's rule.

----- End Of Quotes -----

With the independence of East Timor now assured due to the presence of U.N. troops on the island, as well as to the fact that the government of ex-president BJ Habibie finally ratified the same, this development has provided impetus for the people of other provinces who also desire independence from Jakarta's rule. As a result of a highly-publicized banking scandal, and his poor handling of the East Timor situation, Habibie was ousted from office by a presidential election on October 20, 1999. Assuming his role as president is a fifty-nine year old, half-blind Muslim cleric by the name of Abdurrahman Wahid. Assisting the president is vice president Megawati Sukarnoputri, who is the daughter of Indonesia's first president and dictator, Sukarno.

No sooner had Mr. Wahid, (affectionately known as Gus Dur), assumed office, that the people of the far province of Aceh, which is located on the northern extreme of the island of Sumatra, went to the streets to publicly manifest their own demands for independence from Jakarta; however, neither the new president, nor the powerful military, are about to lose another province, as occurred with East Timor. Following are several recent reports from CNN news:

----- Begin Quotes -----

Indonesian President Says Aceh Will Not Be Allowed To Secede

President Abdurrahman Wahid says his government will never allow restive Aceh province, where separatist sentiment has grown in recent weeks, to split from Indonesia. "Any attempt to separate Aceh from Indonesia is an act that cannot be tolerated," Wahid told a panel of senior legislators who summoned him on Wednesday to explain his policies.

. . .

Thousands Flee Aceh, Fearing Violence Before Proposed Referendum

Thousands of people fearing potential anti-Jakarta violence ahead of the proposed referendum for Aceh are fleeing the restive province, as guerrillas prepare to fight for independence. Some people have withdrawn their savings from banks and transportation out of Aceh is booked solid for two weeks, residents and local newspapers reported on Tuesday.

. . .

Indonesia Military To Head Off Aceh Independence Vote

Warning against the potential disintegration of the world's fourth most-populous nation, Indonesia's politically powerful military plans to head off an independence vote in Aceh. "A referendum on autonomy is fine," chief armed forces spokesman Maj.Gen. Sudrajat said on Tuesday. "But a referendum on independence -- no, because it will lead to a Balkanization process."

. . .

Rebel Chief Demands Independence From Indonesia

A separatist rebel chief on Tuesday dismissed President Abdurrahman Wahid's enticements to keep Aceh province a part of Indonesia, vowing to continue an armed struggle until the oil-rich province attains full independence. Despite criticism from members of his government and the military, Wahid on Tuesday again voiced support for a referendum in Aceh. He sweetened the pot to keep Aceh part of the archipelago nation by offering it autonomy and 75 percent of the province's revenues.

. . .

Tensions In Aceh Prompt Wahid To Cut Short Asian Tour

Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid will cut short his tour of Southeast Asia and return to Jakarta on Tuesday, in part because of a separatist movement in the province of Aceh. Hundreds of thousands of marchers have demanded an immediate vote on independence for Aceh, a region rich in oil and mineral resources. "One of the reasons is the events developing in Aceh," a presidential source said Tuesday.

----- End Of Quotes -----

With independence now securely gained by the East Timorese, and the citizens of Aceh now aiming to achieve the same goal, it isn't surprising to see that people of the eastern province of Irian Jaya have also been affected by the spirit of freedom which is currently sweeping across Indonesia. Truly, it appears that this vast island-chain nation may be in the process of being broken up. During the first week of December, 1999, CNN reported the following:

----- Begin Quote -----

Separatists Raise Flag In Indonesia's Irian Jaya

Tens of thousands of people participated in the raising of a separatist flag and demanded independence from Indonesia during a peaceful demonstration on Wednesday in the capital of Irian Jaya province.

----- End Of Quote -----

Besides these major wars and bloody confrontations between the various nations of the world, and these oft times violent protests for independence, during the past several decades, terrorist bomb strikes have also reared their ugly head in just about every major region of the Earth. As an example, sixteen years ago, on October the 23rd, 1983, a tanker truck filled with deadly explosives, and driven by a suicidal terrorist, crashed into the U.S. Marine barracks located in Beirut, Lebanon. As a result of that attack, two hundred and forty-one marines lost their lives, and another eighty were also wounded. On the very same day, another terrorist attack was launched against the French military quarters as well; and fifty-six lives were claimed in that terrible incident.

A little more than five years later, on the fateful evening of December 21, 1988, Pan Am flight number 103, bound for New York City from London's Heathrow Airport, became the next major terrorist target. About an hour after takeoff, while flying over the Scottish town of Lockerbie, the plane

exploded in mid-air. It was later determined that the deadly explosion resulted from a bomb which had been concealed in a passenger's transistor radio. That attack claimed a total of two hundred seventy victims from some twenty-two different nations. Two hundred and fifty-nine of the victims were in the plane itself, while eleven more died on the ground when part of the plane's fuselage plowed into a housing project in Lockerbie. Just recently, Libya finally released to the West, the persons who are claimed to have been responsible for the deadly attack; and reparations are still being sought for, for the families of the victims.

It was just under five years later, that the world again witnessed the dangerous reality of terrorism. On the 26th day of February, 1993, a 1,200-pound bomb exploded in the subterranean garage of the 110-story towers of the World Trade Center in New York City. That attack resulted in the death of six American citizens, and in over one thousand persons being wounded. Mohammed A. Salameh, 30, Nidal Ayyad, 30, Mahmoud Abouhalima, 37, and Ahmad Mohammad Ajaj, 31, were convicted in 1994, and each received a life sentence plus 240 years. In January 1998, the alleged mastermind of the plot, 25-year-old Ramzi Yousef, who had been captured in Pakistan in 1995, also received a 240-year sentence. Three months later, in April of 1998, 26-year-old Eyad Ismoil, who was captured in Jordan in 1995, and who is accused of having driven the van which carried the bomb, also received the same sentence.

Two years later, on November 13, 1995, terrorists struck once again when a car-bomb exploded in a U.S. military headquarters building in Riyadh, Saudia Arabia. That attack resulted in the death of six civilians of American and Saudi Arabian nationality, as well as in dozens of other persons being injured. Following is a CNN news clip from that time period:

----- Begin Quote -----

WASHINGTON (CNN) -- An apparent car-bomb explosion outside a U.S. training facility in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia Monday killed six people, including five Americans, and injured about 60 others. Thirty-four of the wounded were Americans; one of the Americans killed was an enlisted U.S. soldier. The other four were civilians.

The explosions -- two, about five minutes apart -- ripped the front facade off a building where nearly 400 Americans train the Saudi National Guard to use weapons bought from the U.S.

Authorities believe a bomb was concealed in a van parked near a ground-floor snack bar where both Americans and Saudis were having lunch.

----- End Of Quote -----

Not even a year later, on June 25, 1996, Saudi Arabia once again became the scene for yet another deadly terrorist attack against American military forces. On that fateful day, a fuel tanker truck laden with as much as 5,000 pounds of explosives, exploded outside of the perimeter fence of the al-Khobar Towers; a foreign housing project located on the King Abdul Aziz Air Base in Dhahran. The explosion all but destroyed one building and blasted a crater thirty-five feet deep and eighty-five feet across. That attack resulted

in the death of nineteen Americans, and over three hundred other persons being injured according to the Saudi government.

Tragically, the Saudi Arabian attacks would not be the last. On August 7, 1998, the world was once again shocked when two simultaneous terrorist attacks were launched against the American embassies in Nairobi, Kenya and Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania. It has been reported that a total of two hundred and thirty-four lives were lost due to these pre-meditated attacks, and nearly five thousand people were injured, making them the third most deadly attacks since the attack in Lebanon fifteen years earlier, and the Lockerbie attack ten years before. Following are several excerpts from the Associated Press, released several days after the attacks:

----- Begin Quotes -----

Death Toll At 234; More Arrests Made

NAIROBI, Kenya - Investigators began piecing together evidence from two bomb-shattered U.S. embassies Tuesday as rescuers pulled bodies from the rubble in Nairobi, pushing the death count in the twin attacks to 234. Police made more arrests in Tanzania. No one has been pulled alive from the wreckage since Saturday, the day after the blasts. The stench of rotting flesh seeped from the heaped concrete and steel in Nairobi Tuesday.

The nearly simultaneous bombings in Kenya and Tanzania claimed at least 234 lives - including 12 Americans - and injured nearly 5,000. Kenya's National Disaster Operation Center said Tuesday 220 people were confirmed killed in Nairobi. Ten Africans died in the bombing in Tanzania.

----- End of Quotes -----

Returning to more recent events, the explosions scattered throughout Russia are not the only terrorist bombing attacks which have been carried out during recent months. America's Cable News Network, (CNN), also reported the following attacks as well in Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Yemen, Israel and in the so-called 'recently-liberated' Kosovo:

----- Begin Quotes -----

Sri Lankan President Calls For Calm After Assassination Attempt

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (CNN) -- President Chandrika Kumaratunga has survived an assassination attempt and is appealing for calm in Sri Lanka after two suicide bombings left 21 people dead and 150 people -- including herself -- wounded.

The first bomb exploded near Colombo's town hall just as Kumaratunga had finished addressing a People's Alliance campaign rally supporting her re-election.

Shortly after the blast, a second suicide bomber struck at a gathering of the main opposition party, the United National Party in Ja-Ela, a Colombo suburb.

The bombing is similar to a 1994 attack against a Sri Lankan presidential candidate of the UNP. The candidate and 51 others were killed in a bomb blast at an election rally.

A year earlier, Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa was killed in an explosion during a May Day rally. Both attacks were blamed on LTTE.

. . .

Bombs Kill 7 In Pakistan

Militant supporters of deposed prime minister Nawaz Sharif claimed responsibility Sunday for a bomb explosion that killed seven people in Lahore, the capital of Pakistan's eastern Punjab province. Two children were among the dead. Another 17 people were hospitalized, police said. In a statement faxed to Pakistani newspapers, an organization calling itself the Al-Nawaz group said it had triggered the bomb to protest the military coup that ousted Sharif.

. . .

Powerful Truck Bomb Shatters Taliban Headquarters

A powerful truck bomb exploded near the home of the leader of Afghanistan's ruling Taliban movement, killing seven people, Taliban officials said Wednesday. The explosion, shortly after 10 p.m. local time Tuesday in southern Kandahar, shattered windows and doors and sent frightened residents scurrying for cover. The truck was parked three houses away from Mullah Mohammed Omar's home, said Taliban spokesman Abdul Hai Muttmain, who was contacted on satellite telephone in Kandahar.

. . .

Blasts Rock 3 Yemen Cities

A car bomb exploded in the Yemeni capital of Sana'a Saturday, killing several people and injuring many others, officials said. A number of embassies and diplomatic residences were damaged in the early morning blast outside a supermarket in the Hadda area. However, no diplomatic personnel were injured in the explosion, which came hours after two bombs went off in southern Yemen. No injuries were reported there.

. . .

Israel: Explosions Won't Derail Renewed Peace Process

The government of Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak signaled Sunday that peace efforts with the Palestinians would go forward despite suspected car bomb blasts in two northern Israeli towns that killed at least three people. Police suspect terrorism was the motive for nearly simultaneous blasts in the Sea of Galilee town of Tiberias and the port city of Haifa Sunday. The explosions came just hours after Barak and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat signed a revamped land-for-security accord.

. . .

Explosions Rock American Sector Of Kosovo

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia -- Several explosions ripped through the American sector of eastern Kosovo, killing two people and injuring four, including one critically, NATO said on Wednesday.

Eight to 10 blasts occurred late Tuesday near Donja Budriga village, three miles south of Gnjilane, according to Pfc. William Patterson of the U.S. military press office at Camp Bondsteel. He did not say whether the victims were Serbs or ethnic Albanians.

The explosions occurred one day after Russian soldiers patrolling in the American sector shot and killed three Serbs after they disregarded orders to stop beating two wounded Albanians and instead opened fire on the peacekeepers.

Those incidents have raised tensions in Kosovo before the scheduled September 19 demilitarization of the Kosovo Liberation Army, whose attacks against Serbs triggered the 18-month crackdown that led to the 78-day NATO bombing campaign.

. . .

Kosovo Blast Damages Monument To Ethnic Harmony

A bomb rocked Kosovo's capital early Saturday and damaged a monument symbolizing former Yugoslav leader Josip Broz Tito's ideal of ethnic harmony among his people, NATO-led KFOR peacekeepers said. The explosion, which occurred at 3:22 a.m. (0122 GMT) in central Pristina, rattled windows and woke people across the city. It badly damaged the base of the reinforced concrete monument, which local residents said was erected in 1961. There was no immediate indication who was responsible.

----- End Of Quotes -----

As we have now seen through some of the previous reports, civilian uprisings by Islamic militants who seek liberation from their oppressive governments is a worldwide scourge at this present time. Thousands upon thousands have died as a result of these violent clashes between government forces and the Islamic fundamentalists. Consider the following alarming excerpts from a report released by the Associated Press in January of 1998:

----- Begin Quotes -----

Algerian Authorities Provide First Death Toll In Six Years:
26,536

ALGIERS, Algeria (AP) -- Algeria's prime minister provided the first official death toll in six years of violence today, saying 26,536 people have been killed -- a figure about three times lower than most media estimates.

Prime Minister Ahmed Ouyahia, addressing lawmakers in a session that lasted until 4 a.m., also said 21,000 people have been injured since the start of an Islamic insurgency in 1992. Acts of violence have left 5,000 people handicapped, he said.

The death toll provided by the chief of government, running from 1992 through 1997, includes security forces but does not include those killed since the start of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan Dec. 30. The media estimates some 2,000 people have died since then -- far more than government estimates.

Algerian authorities have maintained a policy of silence over casualties since the start of the insurgency. They only occasionally acknowledge attacks and consistently provide figures far lower than those cited in the nation's newspapers or by hospital sources.

The Associated Press uses a death toll estimate of about 75,000. Some put the figure as high as 120,000.

----- End Of Quotes -----

As we continue this series in part four, we will turn our attention to some of the evils which have plagued American society in recent years; in particular, the violent acts being committed by outraged American citizens, plus the shootings which have occurred in the Public School System. In addition to this, we will discuss the topics of families divided by Christ, the dangers of anger rage and wrath, defining nations and kingdoms, the exactness of the Lord's prophecy, no peace for the roaring waves of the wicked, the causes of wars and personal conflicts, the possible true meaning of Jesus' prophecy, and finally, earthquakes in the Old Testament. Once again, I trust that you will join me. We still have a lot of ground to cover.

Fulfilled Prophecy : The Beginning Of Sorrows : Part 4

Violent Outraged Americans, Oklahoma City Bombing, American High School Shootings, Families Divided By Jesus Christ, Anger Rage And Wrath, Defining Nations And Kingdoms Exactness Of Jesus' Prophecy, Daniel's Prophecy, No Peace For Sea Of The Wicked, Causes Of Wars And Personal Conflict, Satan Bound, Jesus' Intended Meaning?, Earthquakes In The Old Testament

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While we have concentrated thus far on terrorist bombing attacks which appear to have been carried out by specific organizations or ethnic groups with a very specific agenda, or at least by persons who are sympathetic to their causes, the tragedy of human rage and rebellion does not end there. In recent years, the American press has been filled with shocking stories of lone gunmen, or of one or two persons who have lashed out at society due to some kind of personal turmoil occurring within their own lives. We have read of attacks being carried out in family restaurant chains, such as McDonalds, in U.S. post offices and in other government buildings, in hospitals, and even within the Public School System.

For example, on January 25, 1993, a lone gunman opened fire on employees as they arrived for work at the CIA, (Central Intelligence Agency), Headquarters in Langley, Virginia, U.S.A.. Two people were killed as a result of the attack, and three others were wounded. About three and half years later, a pipe bomb exploded in Centennial Park outside of the Olympic Village in Atlanta, Georgia, U.S.A.. That attack resulted in the death of one bystander and had the potential for killing many more. Following are four more recent reports from CNN regarding deadly incidents which occurred at a Xerox plant in Honolulu, Hawaii, at a boat repair facility in Seattle, Washington, at a church in Fort Worth,

Texas, and at a hospital in California:

----- Begin Quotes -----

Suspect in Honolulu Shooting Spree Faces First-Degree Murder

The Xerox Corp. warehouse where police say an employee shot and killed seven co-workers was expected to be open for business on Wednesday, with counselors available for shocked and grieving staff. The suspect, identified as 40-year-old Bryan Uyesugi, who joined Xerox 15 years ago, surrendered on Tuesday after an armed standoff with police. Police said he would be charged with first-degree murder. It was the worst mass killing in Hawaii, a state with one of the lowest murder rates in the nation.

. . .

Massive Manhunt Under Way For Seattle Gunman

A massive dragnet remains in effect in Seattle, as police use helicopters and dogs to search for a gunman who killed two people and left two others wounded in a deadly rampage at a boat repair company. The gunman, wearing camouflage clothing and sunglasses, calmly walked in and shot four employees at the company without saying a word, then fled the scene, police said. The attack came a day after seven people were killed in a shooting in Hawaii.

. . .

Church Gunman Kills 7, Self, In Texas

FORT WORTH, Texas (CNN) -- Investigators early Thursday were trying to identify the black-clad gunman who killed seven people and himself at a Fort Worth church Wednesday night.

The killer and six of his victims remained inside Wedgwood Baptist Church, and a seventh victim died at a Fort Worth hospital, police said. Investigators closed the church to check for explosives.

The man's identity and motive remained unknown early Thursday. Police described the killer only as a slender white man in his mid-20s or 30s, dressed entirely in black. He shot himself in the head at the end of his spree, Mendoza said.

In addition to those killed, another seven were wounded, and some of those were reported in critical condition late Wednesday. The wounded included at least four teens, two boys and two girls, and a 12-year-old boy. Another five teens were unaccounted for early Thursday.

The attack came about a half-hour after the beginning of a prayer service and annual youth rally called "See You at the Pole," at which teens gather at a flagpole and pray for friends, families and nations. The rally attracted teens from across the area, police said.

. . .

Three Employees Killed At Hospital

ANAHEIM, California (AP) -- A gunman said to have been angered by his mother's death stormed into a hospital

Tuesday and opened fire, authorities said, killing three employees. Police said the rampage ended when the suspect, identified as Dung Trinh, 43, was grabbed by people inside the hospital and held until police arrived. A gun was recovered. Trinh was apparently angry at the West Anaheim Medical Center over the death of his mother at another hospital earlier that day, authorities said. Mot Trinh, 72, had been treated at West Anaheim Medical Center in June for an undisclosed illness. She was taken to Anaheim Memorial West Hospital early Tuesday and died about five hours later. After her death at about 10:30 a.m., police Lt. Steven Walker said Trinh drove a few blocks to West Anaheim Medical Center. "Suspect Trinh, armed with a handgun, opened fire, killing three victims," Walker said.

----- End Of Quotes -----

Of course, out of all of these insane attacks carried out by enraged American citizens, the most deadly one occurred on the morning of April 19, 1995, when a massive truck bomb exploded outside of the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, U.S.A.. This massive explosion resulted in the untimely death of one hundred and sixty-eight persons, and hundreds more were wounded. To this day, rumours abound amongst conspiracy theorists regarding whether or not the accused, Timothy McVeigh, who has since been sentenced to death, and his accomplice, Terry Nichols, who has received a life sentence thus far, really acted alone, or if they might have just been scapegoats for a much larger conspiracy against the American government. As I mentioned earlier, we would all be wise to not blindly accept the twisted truths which are spoon-fed to the population at large by the government's propaganda organ, the mass media.

Aside from the lethal 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building, undoubtedly, the incidents which have shocked the American public the most, are those which have occurred within the "sacred" American Public School System, such as the March 1999 shooting at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado, U.S.A.. While I have employed the use of the word "sacred", please understand that I do not mean holy to Christians, but rather sacred to the high priests of higher learning, who subtly fill the hearts and minds of our Christian children with their blasphemous lies concerning EVILution and other false scientific distortions; who teach our Christian children that gay and lesbian relationships are acceptable forms of human behaviour; who persuade our Christian children to doubt and passively rebel against their very own parents, and who basically accuse God of being a liar, and His Word a lie, because He, and it, are contrary to their satanic teachings.

Being as I discuss this same topic at length in the article "Plight Of The Children", I will forego discussing it in detail here; however, I would like to provide you with a chronological list of the growing number of violent and bloody terrorist acts being committed by obviously unstable American teenagers, since the last quarter of 1997. These heinous and pre-meditated crimes have sadly resulted in the pre-mature deaths of several dozen teachers and students:

Oct. 1, 1997 - Luke Woodham, then age seventeen, and an eleventh grade student at Pearl High School in Pearl, Mississippi, opened fire on his classmates with a deer rifle. He killed his former girlfriend, Christina Menefee, and Lydia Dew, a girl whom he had taken to the prom the

previous year. Seven others were wounded. Woodham had already bludgeoned, stabbed and killed his mother, Mary Woodham, age fifty, before he left for school.

Dec. 1, 1997 - Michael Carneal, then age fourteen, and a student at Heath High School in Paducah, Kentucky, shot and killed three female classmates, Kayce Steger, Jessica James and Nicole Hadley, and injured five others during a before-school prayer meeting.

Mar. 24, 1998 - Mitchell Johnson, then age thirteen, and his cousin, Andrew Golden, then age eleven, ambushed their fellow classmates as they exited Westside Middle School near Jonesboro, Arkansas, following a false fire alarm. Four students and a teacher were killed in that incident, and ten others were injured.

Apr. 24, 1998 - An unnamed fourteen year old eighth grade student at J.W. Parker Middle School in northwestern Pennsylvania fatally shot a teacher and wounded two students at an eighth-grade dance. He was later apprehended by the owner of the dance hall as he fled on foot.

Apr. 28, 1998 - Two teenagers were shot and killed, and a third was wounded while playing basketball at Philadelphia Elementary School in Pomona, California, about forty miles east of Los Angeles. The names and ages of the killer and the victims aren't available.

May 20, 1998 - Jacob Davis, an eighteen year old senior, and football player at a high school in Fayetteville, Tennessee, shot and killed fellow teammate, eighteen year old Nicholas Creason, in the school's parking lot.

May 20, 1998 - Kipland Kinkel, age fifteen, and a student at Thurston High School in Springfield, Oregon, fired fifty-one rounds from a semi-automatic rifle and two handguns. Two of his fellow students, Mikael Nickolauson and Benjamin A. Walker, were killed in the school's cafeteria, and another twenty-two were injured before Kinkel was wrestled to the ground by two other students and disarmed. Kinkel is also accused of murdering his parents, William and Faith Kinkel, the day before the shootings. Police found five bombs, a hand grenade and a howitzer shell casing stashed under his home.

Apr. 20, 1999 - Two students dressed in black trench coats, eighteen year old Eric Harris, and seventeen year old Dylan Klebold, set off pipe bombs, threw grenades, and selectively opened fire on fellow students at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado, a suburb located to the southwest of Denver. Beginning their cold-blooded killing spree in the school's first-floor cafeteria, the pair continued firing at students in the hallways as they made their way up to the second-floor library. Witnesses claim that the deadly pair laughed and hooted aloud as they shot their victims at close range. They finally took their own lives in the library. In all, fifteen people lost their lives, including students and faculty members. In addition, dozens more were injured before the deadly assault ended.

May 20, 1999 - Thomas Solomon Jr., a fifteen year old sophomore at Heritage High School, located in Conyers, Georgia, a suburb of Atlanta, opened fire on his fellow students with a .22-caliber rifle. Six classmates were wounded, none of them fatally, in the attempted massacre.

The student later surrendered in tears to the assistant principle after a failed attempt at committing suicide with a handgun.

Dec 6, 1999 - Thirteen year old Seth Trickey, a student at Fort Gibson Middle School, located near Muskogee, Oklahoma, wounded four classmates with a 9 mm semi-automatic handgun.

Perhaps one of the most shocking things about some of these shootings by high school teens, is that they occurred in middle and upper class communities where both parents and residents alike were of the mistaken belief that such things could never possibly happen. Not only that, but in some cases, the student killers were in good standing with their schools, and were above suspicion. Sadly, they did happen. Who can doubt then, that spiritually-speaking, something is seriously wrong with the United States of America, just as there is something seriously wrong with the entire world?

Truly then, precisely as the Lord prophesied so long ago, in our current century, we are a planet which is clearly at war with itself. From international wars involving many nations, to bilateral wars and border skirmishes, to oppressed ethnic groups rising up against their powerful overseers, to deadly terrorist attacks carried out by Islamic fundamentalists and other interest groups, to international and local drug wars, to invisible economic wars to suppress and enslave nations, to senseless shootings and killings by obviously unstable individuals, to inner city violence and gang wars, and even to wars within our very own families between parents and children, Jesus's words have indeed been fulfilled to the letter. Concerning wars between family members due to our Christian faith, consider the following revelatory verses prophesied by Jesus Himself:

"And a man's foes shall be they of his own household. He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me."
Matthew 10:36-38, KJV

"Now the brother shall betray the brother to death, and the father the son; and children shall rise up against their parents, and shall cause them to be put to death. And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved."
Mark 13:12-13, KJV

"Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division: For from henceforth there shall be five in one house divided, three against two, and two against three. The father shall be divided against the son, and the son against the father; the mother against the daughter, and the daughter against the mother; the mother in law against her daughter in law, and the daughter in law against her mother in law."
Luke 12:51-53, KJV

So again, this present generation is one which is literally poisoned and filled with anger, rage, and wrath. If left unchecked, simple anger can lead to violent rage, and rage can lead to venting one's wrath upon others. All of these things are clearly not of the Lord; for as the Apostle Paul tells us, we should not let a day pass, we should not let the sun go down, without resolving any issues which may

otherwise result in a root of anger or bitterness growing in our hearts, which will poison our souls. Rather than resort to violence and force in order to resolve our problems and get our way, we must all learn to exercise a certain degree of love, patience, forgiveness and diplomacy; for the latter are creative and productive, while the former can only be destructive. Consider the following verses:

"A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger . . . A wrathful man stirreth up strife: but he that is slow to anger appeaseth strife."

Proverbs 15:1, 18, KJV

"He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city."

Proverbs 16:32, KJV

"The discretion of a man deferreth his anger; and it is his glory to pass over a transgression."

Proverbs 19:11, KJV

". . . let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil . . . Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

Ephesians 4:26b-27, 31-32, KJV

"But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth."

Colossians 3:8, KJV

"Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;"

Hebrews 12:14-15, KJV

It is interesting to note that in describing these wars of the Endtime, the Lord specifically said 'For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom', as if He was denoting a difference between the two. The word "nation" is derived from the Greek word "ethnos". While this word is often used to refer to non-Jewish, or Gentile nations of the Earth which do not worship the God of Israel, in its purest form, it refers to those people who belong to a certain ethnic group or tribe. At the same time, the word "kingdom" is derived from the Greek word "basileia", which is used to refer to either actual royal power and authority, or else to the actual kingdom and territory which is ruled by a king.

If we look at our world today, it is very easy to see how the definitions of these two words perfectly describe the world's geo-political makeup. We have some Gentile nations which are ruled by presidents and prime ministers, while others are ruled by kings and queens. Not only that, but in ancient times, a nation could be comprised of a number of different smaller kingdoms which all made up a part of the whole. Such was the case with the nation of Israel; which under the leadership of Joshua and Caleb, was divided between the descendants of the twelve Patriarchs, that is, the twelve sons of Jacob, so that in essence, Israel was actually twelve nations within a nation.

We find the very same kind of geographical divisions

occurring today. For example, in some countries, a nation is divided into different states, such as in the United States of America, and the Republic of Mexico; which in Spanish is known as "Los Estados Unidos Mexicanos", or "The United Mexican States". In other countries, the land is divided up into different provinces, such as in Canada and France; and yet in others, such as in Japan, the country is divided up into prefectures. At the same time, we also have large land masses, known as continents, which are divided up into different countries which each contain their own ethnic groups, like Europe, Asia, Africa and South America.

So, if we consider the actual literal meaning of the Lord's prophecy, based upon the information I have now shared with you, we see that it was a very precise prediction which has indeed been fulfilled; because not only have nations risen up against nations, but individual ethnic groups have risen up against each other, as well as against the tyrannical rulers of the countries within which they find themselves. Consider the example of the Kurds, who are currently spread out between Turkey, Iraq and Iran; or the Palestinians who primarily occupy Jordan, but who are fighting for a homeland in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip; or the current strife between the Muslim Kosovar Albanians and the Christian Serbs; or the Muslim rebels in Chechnya and Dagestan who are now at war against the Russian government; and on and on it goes.

Just as the Lord made mention of the prophecies of Daniel in His Endtime sermon found in the twenty-fourth chapter of the Gospel of Matthew, where He speaks of the Abomination of Desolation and its related events, it has occurred to me that perhaps when He speaks of nation rising against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, He may also have been referring to another prophecy written by Daniel in one of his earlier chapters. Consider the following verse which I also discuss in such articles as "The Kings Of The North And The South":

"And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay."

Daniel 2:43, KJV

While I suggest in other articles that this verse might be referring to the different forms of government which exist in our world today which are at odds with each other, such as democracies and dictatorships, or capitalist countries and communist countries, perhaps we should now expand that definition, by suggesting that it may also rightly describe the civil unrest, racial wars and "ethnic cleansing" we see occurring between such groups as I mentioned a moment ago. One thing is for certain; the sea and the waves, that is, the people and the nations of the world, are indeed roaring against each other like they have never done before; and someday soon, some of them will unite under the Beast and roar against God Himself, and blaspheme His Name, as I explain in other Endtime articles. So it is clear then that the wicked people of the world are not at rest. Everywhere we look, there is some degree of war and civil unrest. The symbolic waves of the worldwide sea are truly roaring. Consider the following revelatory verses which support this allegory:

"There is no peace, saith the LORD, unto the wicked."
Isaiah 48:22, KJV

"But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked."

Isaiah 57:20-21, KJV

"And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring;"

Luke 21:25, KJV

"And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues."

Revelation 17:15, KJV

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While on a family level, part of this turmoil is due to some members being willing to contend for their Christian faith, while other members actively fight against them, Jesus and the Apostle James also inform us that the basic cause of all wars and human turmoil, are nothing less than the sins of selfishness and greed, lust, pride and jealousy; which are all signs of an absence of real love in the world. I discuss this same topic in the article "Selfishness: A Sign Of The Endtime?". Consider the following verses:

"And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold."

Matthew 24:12, KJV

"From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts. Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy? But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

James 4:1-7, KJV

One thing is for certain; as James clearly states, Satan is indeed the author of war and confusion; and he is definitely running wild in the world at this current time; igniting wars and causing bloodshed wherever he goes. Thank God that the Bible tells us that in a time not too distant from now, our adversary, Satan, will be temporarily prevented from ravaging the Earth during the glorious Millennial Reign of Jesus Christ and His Resurrected Saints; as we see in these verses found in the Book of Revelation:

"And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season."

Having now closely examined the first part of Jesus' Endtime prophecy concerning "wars and rumours of wars", let us move on now and discuss another part of His prophecy. As the Lord said, "there shall be . . . earthquakes, in divers places". The phrase "in divers" is derived from the Greek word "kata", and means throughout. In other words, there will be temblors in many different regions of the world. Now, it has occurred to me that some scoffers and unbelievers are bound to say that there have always been wars on the Earth, and there have always been earthquakes as well. That being the case, why then do Christians find such significance in the Lord's words? If I were a child of the world, who understood very little of the Bible's contents, I would have to agree with such people; because on the surface, Jesus' words do not appear to have that much significance; because there indeed always have been wars and earthquakes.

However, I am not a blind child of the world; and because I believe that the Lord, by His Spirit, has given me a certain degree of understanding regarding some of these issues, I am of the opinion that what is truly intended by our Lord's words, is a little deeper than what appears on the surface. In other words, for Jesus' words to be a true prophecy, they would have to be prophesying something which would be above and beyond the norm, so that it would stand out and be recognized by those people who have a discerning heart. To say it more plainly, I believe that Jesus really meant for us to understand that the wars, earthquakes, and other signs He gave us regarding the Endtime, would be much greater in their numbers, much greater in size, scope and intensity, and much more destructive in nature, than in all previous years since the world began.

In the case of wars, as we have already clearly seen, wars, skirmishes and civil unrest have heavily marked this century since the very beginning. Not only that, but it is only in this century, that we have seen wars fought which have been truly worldwide in scope; even to where the warring nations are separated by literally thousands of miles of ocean. To add to this fact, it is only in this current century that it has become possible to kill literally tens of thousands, or even millions of people, by the mere pressing of a button! Whereas in times past such a feat would require days, weeks, months, or even years to accomplish, some evil governments of the world can now do the very same thing in less than an hour! Need I remind you of Hiroshima and Nagasaki? Or need I mention that deadly chemical and biological warfare did not sear the public conscience until the war in Southeast Asia in the 1960's and early 1970's, when napalm was used to destroy untold acres of farmlands and jungle, in order to expose the Viet Cong? In my mind then, Jesus' prophecy regarding wars and rumours of wars has truly come to pass.

So what about earthquakes? Can the same be said of them? As you will see by the time you have completed reading this rather lengthy section of our series, I believe that we can also answer in the affirmative. Unlike man's wars, the onset of which are rather predictable, earthquakes strike without warning, and depending upon their magnitude, they can be extremely devastating. Consider the following excerpts from an October 1999 AsiaWeek report regarding the Kobe earthquake:

----- Begin Quote -----

Beyond The Aftershocks

Kobe Shows Its Mettle Following Its Quake

At 5:46 a.m. on Jan. 17, 1995, an earthquake of magnitude 7.2 on the Richter scale ripped through the Japanese city of Kobe. Over 6,400 people were killed and 40,000 were injured in the last major East Asian quake prior to the Taiwan disaster. More than 250,000 buildings were destroyed or damaged in the city and environs. The transportation system was shattered, the economy crippled. But the city, indeed the entire nation, mobilized to rebuild Kobe. Within three months, Shinkansen bullet trains cruised smoothly into Kobe station, and in five months the dense local rail network was running as well.

----- End Of Quote -----

Upon performing a study of the Holy Scriptures, we discover that there are quite a few references found throughout the Bible, which mention great earthquakes occurring as a result of the Lord's wrathful judgments upon wicked men. Due to the oft times symbolic nature of the Scriptures, sometimes it is difficult to know when an earthquake is meant to be taken literally, and when it should be understood in a figurative manner. Not only that, but it is also difficult to determine at times, when the Prophet is referring to an event of the past, and when he is referring to one of the future. Consider the following series of verses, found in the Old Testament, which describe these many events:

"But if the LORD make a new thing, and the earth open her mouth, and swallow them up, with all that appertain unto them, and they go down quick into the pit; then ye shall understand that these men have provoked the LORD. And it came to pass, as he had made an end of speaking all these words, that the ground clave asunder that was under them: And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their houses, and all the men that appertained unto Korah, and all their goods."

Numbers 16:30-32, KJV

"And there was trembling in the host, in the field, and among all the people: the garrison, and the spoilers, they also trembled, and the earth quaked: so it was a very great trembling."

1 Samuel 14:15, KJV

"And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD. And, behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the LORD was not in the earthquake: And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice."

1 Kings 19:11-12, KJV

As we continue our discussion in part five, I'll be sharing some more examples from both the Old and the New Testaments regarding earthquakes. In addition, we will be examining such topics as the Lord's triumphant Return upon the Mount of Olives, the Brook of Kidron, Gethsemane and the Mount of Olives, and similarities between the Valley of Jehoshaphat, also known as the Valley of Decision, and the Valley of

Megiddo. I trust that you will join me.

Fulfilled Prophecy : The Beginning Of Sorrows : Part 5

Earthquakes In Old And New Testaments, The Lord's Mount Of Olives Return, Valley Of Jehoshaphat - Valley Of Decision, Defining Brook Of Kidron, Gethsemane And Mount Of Olives, Similarities Between Valley Of Decision And Armageddon

[Images Removed From Text Version]

Let us begin part five of our series by taking a look at some other verses found in the Old Testament which deal with earthquakes. Afterwards, I will offer some thoughts for your consideration:

"Enter into the rock, and hide thee in the dust, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty. The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day. For the day of the LORD of hosts shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty, and upon every one that is lifted up; and he shall be brought low: And upon all the cedars of Lebanon, that are high and lifted up, and upon all the oaks of Bashan, And upon all the high mountains, and upon all the hills that are lifted up, And upon every high tower, and upon every fenced wall, And upon all the ships of Tarshish, and upon all pleasant pictures. And the loftiness of man shall be bowed down, and the haughtiness of men shall be made low: and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day. And the idols he shall utterly abolish. And they shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth. In that day a man shall cast his idols of silver, and his idols of gold, which they made each one for himself to worship, to the moles and to the bats; To go into the clefts of the rocks, and into the tops of the ragged rocks, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth."

Isaiah 2:10-21, KJV

"Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it. For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine. And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible. I will make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir. Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the LORD of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger."

Isaiah 13:9-13, KJV

"Fear, and the pit, and the snare, are upon thee, O inhabitant of the earth. And it shall come to pass, that he who fleeth from the noise of the fear shall fall into the pit; and he that cometh up out of the midst of the pit shall be taken in the snare: for the windows from on high are open, and the foundations of the earth do shake. The earth

is utterly broken down, the earth is clean dissolved, the earth is moved exceedingly. The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall be removed like a cottage; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it; and it shall fall, and not rise again. And it shall come to pass in that day, that the LORD shall punish the host of the high ones that are on high, and the kings of the earth upon the earth. And they shall be gathered together, as prisoners are gathered in the pit, and shall be shut up in the prison, and after many days shall they be visited. Then the moon shall be confounded, and the sun ashamed, when the LORD of hosts shall reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and before his ancients gloriously."

Isaiah 24:17-23, KJV

"Woe to Ariel, to Ariel, the city where David dwelt! add ye year to year; let them kill sacrifices. Yet I will distress Ariel, and there shall be heaviness and sorrow: and it shall be unto me as Ariel. And I will camp against thee round about, and will lay siege against thee with a mount, and I will raise forts against thee. And thou shalt be brought down, and shalt speak out of the ground, and thy speech shall be low out of the dust, and thy voice shall be, as of one that hath a familiar spirit, out of the ground, and thy speech shall whisper out of the dust. Moreover the multitude of thy strangers shall be like small dust, and the multitude of the terrible ones shall be as chaff that passeth away: yea, it shall be at an instant suddenly. Thou shalt be visited of the LORD of hosts with thunder, and with earthquake, and great noise, with storm and tempest, and the flame of devouring fire. And the multitude of all the nations that fight against Ariel, even all that fight against her and her munition, and that distress her, shall be as a dream of a night vision. It shall even be as when an hungry man dreameth, and, behold, he eateth; but he awaketh, and his soul is empty: or as when a thirsty man dreameth, and, behold, he drinketh; but he awaketh, and, behold, he is faint, and his soul hath appetite: so shall the multitude of all the nations be, that fight against mount Zion."

Isaiah 29:1-8, KJV

"And it shall come to pass at the same time when Gog shall come against the land of Israel, saith the Lord GOD, that my fury shall come up in my face. For in my jealousy and in the fire of my wrath have I spoken, Surely in that day there shall be a great shaking in the land of Israel; So that the fishes of the sea, and the fowls of the heaven, and the beasts of the field, and all creeping things that creep upon the earth, and all the men that are upon the face of the earth, shall shake at my presence, and the mountains shall be thrown down, and the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground. And I will call for a sword against him throughout all my mountains, saith the Lord GOD: every man's sword shall be against his brother. And I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that are with him, an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone. Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am the LORD."

Ezekiel 38:18-23, KJV

"Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; Prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up: Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruninghooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong.

Assemble yourselves, and come, all ye heathen, and gather yourselves together round about: thither cause thy mighty ones to come down, O LORD. Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about. Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; for the press is full, the fats overflow; for their wickedness is great. Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision. The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining. The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the LORD will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel. So shall ye know that I am the LORD your God dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain: then shall Jerusalem be holy, and there shall no strangers pass through her any more."

Joel 3:9-17, KJV

"For thus saith the LORD of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land; And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts."

Haggai 2:6-7, KJV

While it is quite possible that some of the previous verses from the Old Testament may be referring to a future great earthquake at the time of the Lord's Return, there is also Scriptural proof which points to the fact that some of the Prophets were writing of an actual physical earthquake which occurred in the days of Jewish King Uzziah, also known as Azariah. This earthquake may have occurred around 800-750 B.C.. We find clear proof of this in the following verses, where both Amos and Zechariah, two of the minor Prophets, speak of a great earthquake which occurred in Jerusalem:

"The words of Amos, who was among the herdmen of Tekoa, which he saw concerning Israel in the days of Uzziah king of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash king of Israel, two years before the earthquake."

Amos 1:1, KJV

"And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the LORD my God shall come, and all the saints with thee."

Zechariah 14:5, KJV

Turning our attention to the New Testament, in the Gospel of Matthew and the Book of Acts, we likewise see that the Lord sometimes used physical, literal earthquakes in order to accomplish His purposes; such as when Jesus and some of the Saints rose from the dead, and also when the Lord delivered Paul and Silas from prison in the town of Philippi. Consider these verses:

"And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many. Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly

this was the Son of God."

Matthew 27:51-54, KJV

"And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it."

Matthew 28:2, KJV

"And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed."

Acts 16:26, KJV

At the same time, in addition to Jesus' own prophecy in the twenty-fourth chapter of Matthew concerning temblors which will occur during the Endtime, there are other verses in the New Testament which point to earthquakes which will occur in the future. Some of these quakes appear to be very literal in nature, while others may possibly be symbolic of the casting down, that is, of the defeat, of spiritual powers and Earthly leaders and government authorities at the time of Christ's Return. Consider the following verses:

"See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven: Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire."

Hebrews 12:25-29, KJV

"And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?"

Revelation 6:12-17, KJV

"And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven . . . And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail."

Revelation 11:13, 19, KJV

"And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that

the way of the kings of the east might be prepared. And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon. And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done. And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great. And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found."

Revelation 16:12-20, KJV

In examining the previous verses, one point which becomes clear, is that it appears that Isaiah, Joel, Jesus and John all spoke about the very same events which will occur during the Endtime. Similar to our Lord's own words found in the twenty-fourth chapter of the Gospel of Matthew concerning His Second Coming, Isaiah, Joel and John all mention that the final great earthquake which will herald the Lord's Arrival, will be tied in directly with the Sun, Moon and stars being darkened in some way. While we know that this earthquake is going to occur at Christ's Return, a close examination of the Scriptures reveals even more regarding this temblor. As I explain in the article "The Triumphant Touchdown Of Jesus Christ!", Zechariah tells us that the Lord will descend upon the Mount of Olives, just as He returned to Heaven from the Mount of Olives almost two thousand years ago. Compare the following verses:

"When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven. Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day's journey."

Acts 1:6-12, KJV

"Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when

he fought in the day of battle. And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south. And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the LORD my God shall come, and all the saints with thee. And it shall come to pass in that day, that the light shall not be clear, nor dark: But it shall be one day which shall be known to the LORD, not day, nor night: but it shall come to pass, that at evening time it shall be light."

Zechariah 14:1-7, KJV

Thus we see that when the Lord returns upon the Mount of Olives, a great earthquake is going to occur which will result in a great valley forming as the fissure widens from east to west; that is, the crack will begin in the east in the direction of the Dead Sea, and it will open westward towards the Mediterranean Sea. In the verses I shared earlier from the Book of Joel, it appears that the Prophet may have made mention of this very same valley when he said:

"Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about. Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; for the press is full, the fats overflow; for their wickedness is great. Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision. The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining. The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the LORD will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel."

Joel 3:12-16, KJV

It is interesting to note that the name Jehoshaphat actually means "Jehovah has judged" in Hebrew. Some Bible scholars have speculated that this Valley of Jehoshaphat, or Valley of Decision, may possibly be a reference to the deep ravine situated below Jerusalem's East Wall, which separates the city from the Mount of Olives. It is through this valley that the Brook of Kidron flowed. Jesus and His Disciples were quite familiar with this area, as they often passed over the torrential brook in order to go to the Garden of Gethsemane, which was located at the base of the Mount of Olives; as we see in the following verses:

"When Jesus had spoken these words, he went forth with his disciples over the brook Cedron, where was a garden, into the which he entered, and his disciples. And Judas also, which betrayed him, knew the place: for Jesus oftentimes resorted thither with his disciples."

John 18:1-2, KJV

Thayer's Greek English Lexicon defines the Brook of Kidron and the Garden of Gethsemane as follows:

-----Begin Quotes -----

Kedron:

of Hebrew origin

Cedron or Kidron = "turbid"

1) the name of a winter torrent, rising near Jerusalem and flowing down through a valley of Kidron, having the Mount of Olives on the east, into the Dead Sea.

. . .

Gethsemane:

of Aramaic origin

Gethsemane = "an oil press"

1) the name of a place at the foot of the Mount of Olives, beyond the torrent Kidron.

----- End Of Quotes -----

Easton's Bible dictionary also provides the following data regarding the Mount of Olives, the Garden of Gethsemane and Kedron, or Kidron:

----- Begin Quotes -----

Mount Of Olives:

So called from the olive trees with which its sides are clothed, is a mountain ridge on the east of Jerusalem from which it is separated by the valley of Kidron. It is first mentioned in connection with David's flight from Jerusalem through the rebellion of Absalom and is only once again mentioned in the Old Testament. It is, however, frequently alluded to. It is frequently mentioned in the New Testament . It now bears the name of Jebel et-Tur, i.e., "Mount of the Summit;" also sometimes called Jebel ez-Zeitun, i.e., "Mount of Olives." It is about 200 feet above the level of the city. The road from Jerusalem to Bethany runs as of old over this mount. It was on this mount that Jesus stood when he wept over Jerusalem.

"No name in Scripture," says Dr. Porter, "calls up associations at once so sacred and so pleasing as that of Olivet. The 'mount' is so intimately connected with the private, the devotional life of the Saviour, that we read of it and look at it with feelings of deepest interest and affection. Here he often sat with his disciples, telling them of wondrous events yet to come, of the destruction of the Holy City; of the sufferings, the persecution, and the final triumph of his followers. Here he gave them the beautiful parables of the ten virgins and the five talents; here he was wont to retire on each evening for meditation, and prayer, and rest of body, when weary and harassed by the labours and trials of the day; and here he came on the night of his betrayal to utter that wonderful prayer, 'O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt'. And when the cup of God's wrath had been drunk, and death and the grave conquered, he led his disciples out again over Olivet as far as to Bethany, and after a parting blessing ascended to heaven.

This mount, or rather mountain range, has four summits or peaks:

1. the "Galilee" peak, so called from a tradition that the angels stood here when they spoke to the disciples.
2. the "Mount of Ascension," the supposed site of that event, which was, however, somewhere probably nearer Bethany.
3. the "Prophets," from the catacombs on its side, called "the prophets' tombs;" and
4. the "Mount of Corruption," so called because of the "high places" erected there by Solomon for the idolatrous worship of his foreign wives. Vulg., "Mount of Offence".

. . .

Gethsemane:

Oil-press, the name of an olive-yard at the foot of the Mount of Olives, to which Jesus was wont to retire with his disciples, and which is specially memorable as being the scene of his agony. The plot of ground pointed out as Gethsemane is now surrounded by a wall, and is laid out as a modern European flower-garden. It contains eight venerable olive-trees, the age of which cannot, however, be determined. The exact site of Gethsemane is still in question. Dr. Thomson (The Land and the Book) says: "When I first came to Jerusalem, and for many years afterward, this plot of ground was open to all whenever they chose to come and meditate beneath its very old olive trees. The Latins, however, have within the last few years succeeded in gaining sole possession, and have built a high wall around it. The Greeks have invented another site a little to the north of it. My own impression is that both are wrong. The position is too near the city, and so close to what must have always been the great thoroughfare eastward, that our Lord would scarcely have selected it for retirement on that dangerous and dismal night. I am inclined to place the garden in the secluded vale several hundred yards to the north-east of the present Gethsemane."

. . .

Kedron:

The valley, now quite narrow, between the Mount of Olives and Mount Moriah. The upper part of it is called the Valley of Jehoshaphat. The word means "black," and may refer to the colour of the water or the gloom of the ravine, or the black green of the cedars which grew there.

Kidron:

Kedron Cedron, turbid, the winter torrent which flows through the Valley of Jehoshaphat, on the eastern side of Jerusalem, between the city and the Mount of Olives. This valley is known in Scripture only by the name "the brook Kidron." David crossed this brook bare-foot and weeping, when fleeing from Absalom, and it was frequently crossed by our Lord in his journeyings to and fro. Here Asa burned the obscene idols of his mother, and here Athaliah was executed. It afterwards became the receptacle for all manner of impurities, and in the time of Josiah this valley was the common cemetery of the city. Through this mountain ravine no water runs, except after heavy rains in the mountains round

about Jerusalem. Its length from its head to en-Rogel is 2 3/4 miles. Its precipitous, rocky banks are filled with ancient tombs, especially the left bank opposite the temple area. The greatest desire of the Jews is to be buried there, from the idea that the Kidron is the "valley of Jehoshaphat" mentioned in #Joe 3:2| Below en-Rogel the Kidron has no historical or sacred interest. It runs in a winding course through the wilderness of Judea to the north-western shore of the Dead Sea. Its whole length, in a straight line, is only some 20 miles, but in this space its descent is about 3,912 feet. Recent excavations have brought to light the fact that the old bed of the Kidron is about 40 feet lower than its present bed, and about 70 feet nearer the sanctuary wall.

----- End Of Quotes -----

A few points which are not mentioned in the previous quotes is that the Mount of Olives runs north to south, and is about two miles long. Its highest point is three thousand feet. The wilderness of Judea is located to the south of the ridges, while to the east is the Jordan River Valley and the Dead Sea, beyond which lies the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. It is about fifty miles from Jerusalem to Amman, Jordan. At any rate, it is possible that the Valley of Kidron and the Valley of Jehoshaphat, also known as the Valley of Decision, may be one and the same. However, we should not limit our thinking to this possibility alone; as it may very well be that this valley does not even exist yet. In other words, perhaps the Valley of Jehoshaphat is actually the valley which will be formed when the Mount of Olives splits in half when the Lord stands upon it at His Return.

One final possibility, is that the Valley of Jehoshaphat may not be either one of the aforementioned valleys. If we consider the fact that Jehoshaphat actually means 'Jehovah has judged', and that the final battle in which the ungodly forces will attempt to defeat the Lord, will be fought in the Valley of Megiddo, perhaps that may be the real Valley of Decision. It was in the Valley of Megiddo, located on the southern edge of the Plain of Esdraelon in northern Israel, that foolish King Josiah lost his life during an unprovoked battle against Pharaoh Necho, king of Egypt. Megiddo is also known as Megiddon, Har Megiddo, or Armageddon. It is also interesting to note that when the Prophet Zechariah was describing how Jerusalem would become a burdensome stone to the nations of the Endtime, and how the Lord would finally come to Jerusalem's aid, after He had severely chastised the Jews through invasion and military defeat, thus finally bringing a small remnant of them to repentance, the Prophet made a direct link to the Valley of Megiddo, or Armageddon, and King Josiah's fall there. Consider the following verses:

"After all this, when Josiah had prepared the temple, Necho king of Egypt came up to fight against Carchemish by Euphrates: and Josiah went out against him. But he sent ambassadors to him, saying, What have I to do with thee, thou king of Judah? I come not against thee this day, but against the house wherewith I have war: for God commanded me to make haste: forbear thee from meddling with God, who is with me, that he destroy thee not. Nevertheless Josiah would not turn his face from him, but disguised himself, that he might fight with him, and hearkened not unto the words of Necho from the mouth of God, and came to fight in the valley of Megiddo. And the archers shot at king Josiah; and the king said to his servants, Have me away; for I am sore

wounded. His servants therefore took him out of that chariot, and put him in the second chariot that he had; and they brought him to Jerusalem, and he died, and was buried in one of the sepulchres of his fathers. And all Judah and Jerusalem mourned for Josiah."

2 Chronicles 35:20-24, KJV

"Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem. And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it. In that day, saith the LORD, I will smite every horse with astonishment, and his rider with madness: and I will open mine eyes upon the house of Judah, and will smite every horse of the people with blindness . . . And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn. In that day shall there be a great mourning in Jerusalem, as the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the valley of Megiddon."

Zechariah 12:2-4, 9-11, KJV

"And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared. And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon."

Revelation 16:12-16, KJV

As we continue this discussion in part six, I will offer some final evidence which may point to a link between the Valley of Jehoshaphat, or the Valley of Decision, and the Valley of Megiddo. In addition, I will mention the signs which will precede the Jerusalem earthquake, and stress the importance of the Southern Europe/Middle Eastern earthquake region. I will also be presenting some information which will explain the geological structure of Israel and the surrounding area, which will further prove that a mighty earthquake in the vicinity of Jerusalem and the Mount of Olives at the time of the Lord's Return is very feasible. This will include facts concerning the Dead Sea Rift. In addition, I will be exposing the distortions of the U.S. Geological Survey, by sharing some of their earthquake tables with you. I will conclude part six by mentioning the 1999 destructive earthquakes in Turkey, as well as begin to discuss other tremors which have rocked the planet since the beginning of 1999. I trust that you will join me.

Valley Of Decision And Valley Of Megiddo, Signs Preceding Jerusalem Earthquake, Significance Of Southern Europe And Middle Eastern Earthquake Region, Mount Of Olives And Dead Sea Rift, Distortions Of The U.S. Geological Survey, All Things Continue As They Were?, Earthquake Tables From The USGS, 1999 Turkey Earthquakes And Other Recent Earthquakes

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Allow me to now share with you my final evidence which may point to a possible link between the Valley of Jehoshaphat, or the Valley of Decision, and the Valley of Megiddo. First of all, consider what the the Hebrew and Greek lexicons have to say regarding the name Megiddo, or Megiddon:

-----Begin Quotes -----

Megiddo or Megiddon = "place of crowds"

1) ancient city of Canaan assigned to Manasseh and located on the southern rim of the plain of Esdraelon 6 miles (10 km) from Mount Carmel and 11 miles (18 km) from Nazareth.

Armageddon = "the hill or city of Megiddo"

1) In Rev. 16:16 the scene of a the struggle of good and evil is suggested by that battle plain of Esdraelon, which was famous for two great victories, of Barak over the Canaanites, and of Gideon over the Midianites; and for two great disasters, the deaths of Saul and Josiah. Hence in Revelation a place of great slaughter, the scene of a terrible retribution upon the wicked. The RSV translates the name as Har-Magedon, i.e. the hill (as Ar is the city) of Megiddo.

----- End Of Quotes -----

Now, please notice that the Hebrew form of Meggido, or Armageddon if you prefer, actually means "place of crowds"; which is actually a very significant name if we consider that the multitudinous armies of the Beast will be gathered there in order to fight against Jesus Christ. In describing the battle in the Valley of Decision, do you recall the words of the Prophet Joel which I shared with you earlier? If not. allow me to repeat some of those verses for you:

"Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about. Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; for the press is full, the fats overflow; for their wickedness is great. Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision."
Joel 3:12-14, KJV

Do you see the connection? Megiddo means "place of crowds", and the Lord inspired Joel to write "Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision". Thus, as I describe in other articles concerning the Endtime, after the Lord lands upon the Mount of Olives, which will result in a great earthquake forming a valley running from east to west, perhaps He then takes His Heavenly Forces to Armageddon for the final great battle. Obviously, the fact that this earthquake will be so

near Jerusalem, is going to have some kind of an effect on the city. In fact, as we saw in an earlier verse, it is going to cause a tenth part of the city to fall, and seven thousand people are going to perish as a result of the earthquake. Here again is that same verse in case you've forgotten it:

"And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven."

Revelation 11:13, KJV

Thus far we have learned that the Great Jerusalem Earthquake will have its epicenter on the Mount of Olives, that it will result in a great valley running from east to west, that a tenth part of Jerusalem will fall as a result of it, and that there will be seven thousand casualties. As if this prophecy isn't already clear enough, while we may not yet know the exact day when Christ will return, we do know many of the signs which will precede His Coming, and thus lead up to this great earthquake. If you study my article "The Two Sackcloth Witnesses Of Revelation 11" and many other Endtime articles, you will see that this earthquake will be preceded by the three and a half year period known to many Christians as the Great Tribulation; during which time, the Islamic Beast and his followers will persecute the Jews. From verses I shared earlier from the Book of Zechariah, we know that the city of Jerusalem is going to be besieged, and that half of the city will be taken into captivity by the Islamic forces of the Beast.

We also know from the aforementioned article, that during the full three and a half year period, the Two Sackcloth Witnesses will be performing a variety of miracles; primary of which will be a severe drought. You may recall from the verses I shared earlier from Revelation chapter sixteen, that the Euphrates River is going to dry up, in order to prepare the way for the kings of the East. I discuss these mysterious kings in the in-depth series "The Seven Heads". It is also during this three and a half year period, that the satanic Mark of the Beast will be enforced. Please see such articles as "Mondex And The Mark Of The Beast", "666: The Patience Of The Saints", "666: More Proof Of The Coming System", "Precursors To The 666 And The Mark Of The Beast" and "666: VeriChip, Somark And Microsoft Unmasked!" for further information on what the infamous 666 may signify. So then, while we may not yet know the precise date of this coming great earthquake which will herald the Lord's Return, we certainly do have a lot of information, straight from the Holy Scriptures, which accurately tells us all about this event, literally thousands of years in advance. I challenge any modern-day seismologist to provide me with a similar earthquake prediction. They just can't do it.

Now, for those of you reading this who may scoff at the idea of making a prediction concerning a tremendous earthquake splitting the Mount of Olives in half, based upon Biblical evidence alone, allow me to provide you with some geological information. As we have already seen, over two thousand five hundred years ago, Jerusalem suffered an earthquake, which apparently was so powerful, that it was recorded for us in the pages of the Bible; however, this tremor is by no means the only earthquake to have ever struck the land of Israel. Moving up to our more recent history, on January 1, 1837, an earthquake of unknown magnitude struck Safad, Israel. This

quake resulted in over five thousand deaths. The greatest earthquake to occur this century, known as the Jericho earthquake, struck Israel and the surrounding area on July 11, 1927, and measured 5.9 to 6.25 in magnitude. Sources I have read indicate that the Jericho earthquake resulted in approximately six hundred and seventy fatalities.

In more recent history, on November 22, 1995 an earthquake measuring 6.2-7.3 struck northeastern Egypt. According to the USGS report I read, at least eight people were killed and thirty more were injured in the area of the epicenter. Damage occurred in many parts of northeastern Egypt as far away as Cairo. One person was killed and two more were slightly injured at Al Bad, Saudi Arabia. Some damage occurred at Al Bad, Al Ula and Haql, Saudi Arabia. One person died of a heart attack, several people were injured and substantial damage with power outages and liquefaction occurred at Elat, Israel. Some damage also occurred at Jerusalem and Aqaba, Jordan. This earthquake was felt from Sudan to Lebanon, and high waves were reported along the coast at Aqaba, Jordan.

About three years earlier, on September 12, 1992, a deadly earthquake struck Cairo, Egypt. Measuring 5.2-5.9, its death toll was at least five hundred and forty-one people, as well as more than six thousand and five hundred people who were injured. About eight thousand three hundred buildings were damaged or destroyed in the Cairo area. This earthquake was felt in much of Egypt from Alexandria to Aswan, as well as in Israel from Elat to Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.

As you will soon learn from the earthquake data I will be presenting to you shortly, the region stretching from Italy to Greece, to Turkey, to Syria, to Iran, is one of the most seismically-active areas in the entire world. Excluding the great Chinese earthquakes, this area has claimed more lives down through history, than any other earthquake-prone region of the world. Personally, I am of the opinion that the fact that so many earthquakes occur here is of deep spiritual significance. Not only did this region bring forth the birth of Christianity, and then nurture its growth in the first churches established by Paul and others in Asia Minor, now known as Turkey, but it was also in this same area that true Christianity later compromised with pagan Roman authority in Constantinople, now known as Istanbul, Turkey. As we have now seen, the Bible also indicates that some very important Endtime events are going to occur here as well, so I believe that there is a connection between the physical and the spiritual.

In order to provide you with a basic understanding of the geological structure of Israel and the surrounding area, following are some extracts taken from "Earthquakes In The Holy Land" by Bailey Willis. This report was included in the June 1928 edition of the Bulletin of the Seismological Society of America:

----- Begin Quotes -----

"Palestine is a plateau, which has well-defined limits except toward the south. East of it lies the Dead Sea and the Jordan Valley. North of it is the Plain of Esdralon. West of it is the Mediterranean, which is not quite full enough to flood the narrow coastal plain. The general altitude of the flat top of the plateau is between 2,000 and 2,600 feet above sea level. Jerusalem stands on a summit, a

low hill, similar to many others which have at one time or another been occupied as defensible city sites . . ."

Matching the Palestine plateau, but lying east of the Dead Sea and Jordan Valley is the Transjordan plateau, a bench on the Arabian highland. The Palestine and Transjordan plateaus are completely separated by the profound trough of the Dead Sea, in which the surface of the water lies 1,200 feet below sea level.

In both of these plateaus the geologist notes that the rocks are strata of marine limestone or sandstone, which have been uplifted without appreciable disturbance. In general the beds lie nearly as flat as when they were deposited beneath the sea. Closer inspection shows, it is true, that they have been bent and crushed along certain lines, but the compression is not the obvious thing. One would infer that a great force, a swelling perhaps, had raised the whole mass of either plateau gradually. One would not at once arrive at the conclusion that the deep-seated foundations of the regions were being crushed as in a vise and that the squeezed masses were moving in the direction of least resistance, that is vertically upward. Study of the structures has, however, led me to that conclusion, and I would attribute the earthquakes that shake Palestine to yielding within the body of the plateau or to the slipping of the whole plateau upon the shearing planes that underlie it.

North of the Palestine plateau is the lowland which stretches from west to east, from the Mediterranean to the Jordan, and comprises the Plain of Esdralon and the Valley of Jezreel. It would extend eastward beyond the Jordan, as it once did, if it had not been covered and heaped up by thick lava flows. They form the upland of Bashan, ranging northeastward along the southern slopes of Mount Sermon toward Damascus. Earthquakes impinge on the margins of the low country, Esdralon and Jezreel, but they do not originate within it. It is a non seismic zone between Palestine and northern Syria.

----- End Of Quote -----

It is due to a major fault system which runs between the two aforementioned plateaus, that the Jordan River Valley, also known as the Jordan Rift Valley, exists. This fault system, known as the Dead Sea Rift, is believed by geologists to be the result of a convergence between two tectonic plates, the African Plate, and the Arabian plate; thus, this region is referred to as the Afro-Arabian rift zone. The Dead Sea Rift is believed to be a continuation of the East African Rift, which passes through the Red Sea, then through the Gulf of Aqaba, also known as the Gulf of Elat, and then northward to the Dead Sea. From that point, geologists believe that rift faulting joins the Dead Sea to the Jordan River Valley and Lake Kinneret, also known as the Sea of Galilee, further north. Beyond that point, that is, in Lebanon, the Dead Sea Rift splays out into a series of north-northeast directional faults.

While Mount Everest continues to contend for being the highest point on the Earth, and the Marianas Trench in the western Pacific Ocean holds the claim for being the deepest point in our oceans, the Dead Sea Rift is believed to be one of the deepest, if not the deepest, continental depression on the Earth's surface. It is not surprising then that the

surface of the Dead Sea is 1,292 feet, or 394 meters, below sea level. As its name implies, it is the separation of the Dead Sea Rift which is believed to have resulted in the formation of the Dead Sea, as well as the other major basin in the area, that is, the Gulf of Elat. The Dead Sea Rift is easily visible from the air, as can be seen in the NASA space images which I have made available to you at the top of this part of our series.

While the Dead Sea Rift is the major geological fault in the area, just as a bolt of lightning possesses a series of what we might refer to as minor tendrils, so too, the limestone and sandstone plateau upon which the nation of Israel sits, is permeated with many fractures and fissures; some of which are undoubtedly the result of shifts in the Dead Sea Rift itself. Some of these secondary cracks are visible on the surface, while others are not. Returning to Bailey Willis' report, in later paragraphs of this same bulletin, while discussing the July 11, 1927 temblor, Mr. Willis provides additional information which is evidence that a part of the Dead Sea Rift system does in fact penetrate the Mount of Olives:

----- Begin Quotes -----

Jerusalem, walled in on its rocky promontory between the gorges of the Hinnom and Kedron, had received a strong shock.[5] So had Hebron, twenty miles to the south, and Nablus, thirty miles to the north. These three cities are on the crest of the plateau, on the axis which might be supposed to correspond to an axial fault within the uplift, though no fracture is visible in the surface. The inference which connects the vigor of the shock with a structural feature is strengthened by the greater severity of the earthquake in the Mount of Olives. The Mount is a broad ridge, but a mile east of Jerusalem. it ranges from south to north on the axis of a fold, which assumes the character of a fault in its northern extension. The greatest damage occurred on that axis."

"Among the examples of unfavorable exposure were the Mount of Olives and Es Salt. While the destruction on the Mount was in large part due to the fault within the ridge, it was increased by exposure to the east. Habitations on that far side, the side away from the advancing surface wave of the earthquake, were subjected to its full intensity unrestrained by any mass to impede its emergence into the air . . ."

----- End Of Quotes -----

Thus we see that geologists have been well aware of the existence of a dangerous fault system beneath Jordan and Israel for many years; and it is the very part of the Dead Sea Rift which runs through the Mount of Olives, which will undoubtedly cause it to split in half at the Lord's Return. I recall reading several decades ago, how the Holiday Inn had planned on building one of their famous hotels on the summit of the Mount of Olives; however, if memory serves me correctly, once their engineers became aware of this fault, they withdrew their plans. Sadly, despite the damaging earthquakes which have already shook the mount, and caused a considerable amount of damage in the past, money-minded entrepreneurs have ignored the obvious danger; and to this day, the Mount of Olives hosts a number of hotels, religious buildings, and other tourist-related traps.

Despite all of the Biblical evidence I have shared with you, which not only describes earthquakes of the past, but which also prophesies of even more earthquakes in the future, due to the hardness of their own hearts, some non-believers have tried to disprove the Lord's words. They argue that while there have indeed been many earthquakes in recent decades, there have not been more than in times past. Those people who adopt this anti-Biblical view, contend that this seeming increase in the number of earthquakes is simply due to the fact that in our modern day, in addition to the advent of modern, worldwide seismographic instrumentation which more accurately records the Earth's tectonic movements, global communication networks have made it possible for news of such events to spread further and faster than in times past. In other words, because of this fact, we are being given the false impression that there are more earthquakes when, according to them, there actually are not. As proof of this, consider the following interesting report entitled "Are Earthquakes Really On The Increase?", which was issued by the USGS, that is, the United States Geological Survey:

----- Begin Quote -----

Are Earthquakes Really on the Increase?

We continue to hear from many people throughout the world that earthquakes are on the increase. Although it may seem that we are having more earthquakes, earthquakes of magnitude 7.0 or greater have remained fairly constant throughout this century and, according to our records, have actually seemed to decrease in recent years.

A partial explanation may lie in the fact that in the last twenty years, we have definitely had an increase in the number of earthquakes we have been able to locate each year. This is because of the tremendous increase in the number of seismograph stations in the world and the many improvements in global communications. In 1931, there were about 350 stations operating in the world; today, there are more than 4,000 stations and the data now comes in rapidly from these stations by telex, computer and satellite. This increase in the number of stations and the more timely receipt of data has allowed us and other seismological centers to locate many small earthquakes which were undetected in earlier years, and we are able to locate earthquakes more rapidly. The NEIC now locates about 12,000 to 14,000 earthquakes each year or approximately 35 per day. Also, because of the improvements in communications and the increased interest in natural disasters, the public now learns about more earthquakes.

According to long-term records (since about 1900), we expect about 18 major earthquakes (7.0 - 7.9) and one great earthquake (8.0 or above) in any given year. However, let's take a look at what has happened in the past 28 years, from 1969 through 1996.

Our records show that 1992 is the first time that we have reached or exceeded the long-term average number of major earthquakes since 1971. In 1970 and in 1971 we had 20 and 19 major earthquakes, respectively, but in other years the total was in many cases well below the 18 per year which we may expect based on the long-term average. The following is a list of major earthquakes during this period:

1969 - 15	1970 - 20	1971 - 19	1972 - 15	1973 - 13
1974 - 14	1975 - 14	1976 - 15	1977 - 11	1978 - 16
1979 - 13	1980 - 13	1981 - 13	1982 - 10	1983 - 14
1984 - 08	1985 - 13	1986 - 05	1987 - 11	1988 - 08
1989 - 06	1990 - 12	1991 - 11	1992 - 23	1993 - 15
1994 - 13	1995 - 22	1996 - 21	1997 - 20	

Great earthquakes during this 27 year period were also below the level indicated by the long-term average:

1969 - 1	1970 - 0	1971 - 1	1972 - 0	1973 - 0
1974 - 0	1975 - 1	1976 - 2	1977 - 2	1978 - 1
1979 - 0	1980 - 1	1981 - 0	1982 - 1	1983 - 0
1984 - 0	1985 - 1	1986 - 1	1987 - 0	1988 - 0
1989 - 1	1990 - 0	1991 - 0	1992 - 0	1993 - 1
1994 - 2	1995 - 3	1996 - 1	1997 - 0	

----- End Of Quote -----

The previous report from the USGS is another clear example of man's word versus God's Word. It is a case of the sure Word of Prophecy versus the scientific lies of modern men. As far as I am concerned, either we accept the Lord's words as being true, or else we don't. Considering the Bible's perfect track record in other areas of prophecy, I for one accept the Lord's words as being absolutely true. Allow me to remind you of the verses I shared with you at the beginning of part one, such as the following:

"God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?"
Numbers 23:19, KJV

Not only does the previous report seek to discredit God's Word, but there is a certain subtlety about it as well. In this and other reports issued by the USGS, they define a great earthquake as being one which reaches a magnitude of 8.0 or higher. A major earthquake is defined as one which has a magnitude of 7.0 to 7.9. Below the major category are those temblors which are defined as significant earthquakes; which the USGS describes as follows:

----- Begin Quote -----

A significant earthquake is one of magnitude 6.5 or higher or one of lesser magnitude that causes casualties or considerable damage.

----- End Quote -----

Now, please note that even though an earthquake of magnitude 6.5 may cause considerable casualties and damage, according to USGS standards, such a temblor can only be classified as a significant earthquake, but not as a major earthquake, because it has not reached magnitude 7.0; and this is where

the subtlety of the USGS enters the picture. Their claims that 'all things continue as they were' is based upon the number of major earthquakes of magnitude 7.0 or greater. I am reminded of the following verses from the second Epistle of the Apostle Peter:

"Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation."

2 Peter 3:3-4, KJV

Isn't that precisely the lie which is being spread by these modern-day false prophets? "Oh no; things are not getting worse! There are not more earthquakes! All things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation! The number of annual major earthquakes has been constant!". You see, what they are ignoring, is that God does not require that an earthquake be of 7.0 in order to mete out His judgments. The subtlety behind this method used by the USGS to make their claims, will become even more apparent to you after I share some actual earthquake data with you in a moment. So then, based upon their approach of only using earthquakes of 7.0 magnitude or greater to support their claims, they provide us with the following data for the past ninety-nine years.

Allow me to call your attention to the fact that for the twenty-eight-year period spanning from 1969 to 1997, this report lists 483 earthquakes, whereas the 1997 report, which I shared a moment ago, only lists 403 earthquakes for the same period. Considering the supposed accuracy of their equipment, why is there a discrepancy of eighty earthquakes? Even if we combine the twenty great earthquakes from the previous report, we are still left with an additional sixty earthquakes in the report below. Why is there such a major revision in their figures?:

----- Begin Quote -----

Number Of 7.0+ Magnitude Earthquakes Per Year 1900 - 1998 :

1900	13	1930	13	1960	22	1990	13
1901	14	1931	26	1961	18	1991	10
1902	8	1932	13	1962	15	1992	20
1903	10	1933	14	1963	20	1993	16
1904	16	1934	22	1964	15	1994	15
1905	26	1935	24	1965	22	1995	25
1906	32	1936	21	1966	19	1996	21
1907	27	1937	22	1967	16	1997	20
1908	18	1938	26	1968	30	1998	12
1909	32	1939	21	1969	27		
1910	36	1940	23	1970	29		
1911	24	1941	24	1971	23		
1912	22	1942	27	1972	20		
1913	23	1943*	41	1973	16		
1914	22	1944	31	1974	21		
1915	18	1945	27	1975	21		
1916	25	1946	35	1976\$	25		
1917	21	1947	26	1977	16		
1918	21	1948	28	1978	18		
1919	14	1949	36	1979	15		
1920	8	1950	39	1980	18		
1921	11	1951	21	1981	14		
1922	14	1952	17	1982	10		
1923	23	1953	22	1983	15		

1924	18	1954	17	1984	8
1925	17	1955	19	1985	15
1926	19	1956	15	1986#	6
1927	20	1957	34	1987	11
1928	22	1958	10	1988	8
1929	19	1959	15	1989	7

Total 1900 - 1997 = 1960 major earthquakes

Events = 20 earthquakes per year

* - Most active year since 1900

- Least active year since 1900

\$ - Year with most people killed since 1900

(295,000 - 699,000; dominated by the Tangshan quake with casualty estimate from 255,000 - 655,000)

----- End Quote -----

At the time of this writing, the most powerful seismic event of 1999 continues to be the devastating 7.4 earthquake which struck western Turkey on August 17, 1999. As I write this, almost four months after the temblor, the exact death toll is still unknown, and in fact, may never be known. On August 29, 1999, the BBC reported the following:

----- Begin Quote -----

As the official number of dead from the Turkish earthquake continues to rise, more reports are emerging of the trauma faced by survivors still searching for missing relatives. The confirmed death toll has now reached 14,000, but estimates suggest another 30,000 bodies remain undiscovered.

At one location, the naval base at Golcuk, there are 400 confirmed dead, but more than twice that number are missing. BBC Ankara Correspondent Chris Morris says that pattern is repeated across the region, adding to the psychological strain on survivors who are unable to arrange funerals for their missing relatives.

----- End Of Quote -----

While the earthquake in Turkey held the world's attention for several weeks, it is not the only temblor to shake our planet since the beginning of this year. For example, on January 25th, the South American nation of Columbia was also struck by a devastating earthquake which claimed the lives of over one thousand people. Following are some excerpts from a report issued by Disaster Relief several days after that catastrophe occurred:

----- Begin Quotes -----

Colombian Earthquake Kills 1,000; Death Toll Expected to Climb

At least 1,000 people are dead, thousands more injured, and tens of thousands homeless following a powerful earthquake Monday that leveled major portions of western Colombia. In the hard-hit city of Armenia, rescue workers scrambled to free people trapped in the rubble of collapsed buildings. City residents clawed at the tangled concrete and steel

cables with shovels, sticks, and hands to reach the victims. The deputy fire chief of Armenia said at least 1,000 people were dead, "perhaps more than 2,000 in Armenia alone."

Witnesses described an apocalyptic scene of flattened buildings, crushed automobiles, and bodies littering the streets. Armenia Mayor Alvaro Pulido said his city was devastated by the earthquake, and that his resources were so stretched that the bodies of many victims could not immediately be collected.

----- End Quotes -----

As we continue this series in part seven, I will be sharing some additional news reports with you concerning earthquakes which have struck the planet during 1999. I will also be explaining some of the information-gathering challenges and obstacles I encountered while compiling this data for you. I will also be sharing some additional data with you, which will show exactly how much our Lord's words have been fulfilled during this past century alone. This will include a table which shows the most destructive earthquakes for the past fifty years. The number of deaths and injuries which have resulted from these earthquakes, and the amount of destruction which has accumulated from them as well, truly almost defies the imagination. It is only when one takes the time to really study this issue in detail, instead of just being spoon-fed small pieces of information over a period of time by the mass media, which tends to soften the impact of the truth upon one's conscience, that he is able to form a clear picture in his mind, of how devastating these mighty shakings of the Earth have truly been. I trust that you will join me.

Fulfilled Prophecy : The Beginning Of Sorrows : Part 7

Obstacles, Tables For Destructive Earthquakes The Last 50 Years

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As I concluded in part six, since the deadly temblor in Turkey four months ago, others have continued to rock the planet. Three days after the Turkey earthquake, the Central American nation of Costa Rica also experienced a sizable tremor, as we see in this excerpt taken from a news report released by the Associated Press on August 20, 1999:

----- Begin Quote -----

An earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 6.7 shook Costa Rica early today. There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage . . . The epicenter was 55 miles south of San Jose, the capital. Temblors of magnitude 6 can cause serious damage . . . A spokesman for the Costa Rican Red Cross, Mario Vequez, said the organization also had no reports of damages or injuries. Because of Costa Rica's vulnerability to frequent earthquakes, most buildings in the country are no more than three stories high, making them less prone to damage . . .

----- End Of Quote -----

This is not the only earthquake to strike since the deadly temblor in Turkey. On September the 7th, another earthquake struck the Mediterranean nation of Greece. The temblor had a magnitude of 5.9 and was centered some twelve miles north of Athens. Thus far, the number of casualties has been reported at seventy-two. How ironic that Greece, which is Turkey's enemy, and yet which assisted in earthquake relief in that country in spite of that fact, was forced to deal with its own tragedy. Following are several reports from CNN:

----- Begin Quotes -----

Death Toll In Athens Quake Rises To 72

Emergency teams worked through the night in Athens, searching for survivors of a 5.9-magnitude earthquake, but found few signs of life amid the rubble. Officials said Thursday at least 72 people died in the quake, more than 2,000 were injured and dozens were believed to be missing.

. . .

Rescuers Work To Free Pinned Victims In Greece

In a scene reminiscent of the recent earthquake in Turkey, rescue teams on Wednesday frantically dug under collapsed buildings, trying to free pinned survivors following the strongest quake to hit Athens in nearly a century. At least 52 people were reported dead, scores are believed trapped in the rubble of the quake, and hundreds were reported injured.

----- End Of Quotes -----

Only six days after the tremor in Greece, on September 13th, Turkey suffered another earthquake which is believed to have been an aftershock resulting from the August 17th temblor. The American Cable News Network, (CNN), issued this report:

----- Begin Quote -----

Hundreds Injured In Turkey's Second Deadly Quake

Terrified residents jumped from windows Monday as a 5.8-magnitude earthquake jolted the same area of western Turkey where more than 14,000 people died in an earthquake last month. At least seven people were killed and more than 420 injured in the latest quake. In the hard-hit coastal town of Golcuk, one building damaged in last month's quake slid into the sea, apparently trapping four people who had gone inside to salvage their belongings.

----- End Of Quote -----

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Continuing with the string of major 1999 tremors, during the third week of September, another powerful earthquake shook the Southeast Asian island nation of Taiwan. Following are a few excerpts from some of the reports released by the American Cable News Network:

----- Begin Quotes -----

Aftershock Rattles Taiwan, But Survivors Still Emerging

TAIPEI, Taiwan (CNN) -- A major aftershock from Tuesday's

killer earthquake rattled Taiwan on Sunday, even as rescuers continued to retrieve survivors of Tuesday's quake from ruined buildings around the island.

The 6.5-magnitude aftershock rattled central Taiwan, leaving two motorists dead after a landslide injuring at least 15. Several buildings already damaged by Tuesday's earthquake, which killed more than 2,000 people island-wide, collapsed after the jolt.

. . .

Taiwan Begins Grieving Process Amid Search For Missing

Taiwan went into its usually joyous moon festival holiday on Friday mourning its earthquake dead -- now over 2,100 -- as hope faded for people buried under shattered buildings. Rescue teams from round the globe braved dangerous aftershocks as they worked to get to hundreds of people buried under mounds of rubble since the earthquake struck early on Tuesday while Taiwan slept. Officials said 2,131 people were now confirmed dead.

. . .

Fewer Survivors Found In The Rubble

TAIPEI, Taiwan (CNN) -- Two powerful aftershocks struck Taiwan early Wednesday, sending panicked residents into the streets and hampering rescue efforts from Tuesday's 7.6-magnitude earthquake that killed more than 1,800 people.

A 6.8-magnitude aftershock struck at 8:14 a.m. local time (0014 GMT) and was centered in a mountainous area 9 miles (15 kilometers) east of Sun Moon Lake in Nantou County, according to the Central Weather Bureau. Nantou, located 120 miles (200 kilometers) south of the capital, Taipei, was the epicenter of Tuesday's devastating quake.

The new tremor was followed about half an hour later by a 6.1-magnitude aftershock.

. . .

Death Toll Tops 1,450 In Powerful Taiwan Quake

State radio described it as the strongest tremor to hit the island in more than a decade.

The quake struck at 1:47 a.m. (1747 GMT Monday). The U.S. Geological Survey, which monitors seismic activity worldwide, said the tremor had a preliminary magnitude of 7.6 and was centered in Nantou county, some 90 miles (150 km) southwest of the capital Taipei. Taiwanese officials put the magnitude at 7.3.

----- End Of Quotes -----

As of this writing, the latest major earthquake has hit western Turkey once again, adding at least several hundred more people to the previous death toll. During the third week of November, CNN issued the following reports:

----- Begin Quote -----

Turks Flee Quake-Stricken Area As Toll Mounts

Terrified residents of northwestern Turkey are packing up and leaving the town of Duzce, fearful that the second major earthquake to flatten buildings in the area may not be the last. Efforts continue to find survivors from the quake, which has killed 452 and injured 3,000. Hundreds of those who called Duzce home are heading out, fearing new aftershocks: They leave behind exhausted rescuers searching the rubble of the freezing quake zone into Monday afternoon.

Turkey Rushes Aid To New Quake Victims

Turkish officials rushed aid to the earthquake-stricken town of Duzce on Sunday, trying to avoid the criticism that stung the government after August's devastating tremors. Officials said Sunday that 374 people had been killed and nearly 3,000 injured by Friday's magnitude-7.2 quake. Cold weather was chilling hopes of finding more people alive in the ruins of shattered buildings. The death toll could rise sharply, officials warned, as emergency workers had yet to sift through most of the rubble.

Huge Rescue Effort Mounted In Turkey; 247 Dead

A huge national and international relief effort was underway Saturday after another powerful earthquake struck western Turkey, killing at least 247 people and injuring hundreds more. More than 700 people were injured and at least 102 buildings were destroyed, Turkey's Anatolia news agency reported. The magnitude-7.2 quake struck Friday night and was centered on the town of Duzce, 115 miles (185 km) east of Istanbul, said Ahmet Mete Isikara, head of Istanbul's Kandilli Observatory.

----- End Of Quote -----

So as you can clearly see, 1999 has indeed had its share of serious earthquakes. The London Telegraph summed up 1999 by calling it 'the year of the earthquake', as we see by the following short excerpt taken from a news report released the third week of October, 1999:

----- Begin Quote -----

From Colombia to India, Turkey to Taiwan, Mexico, and now California, 1999 has been the year of the earthquake. More than 20,000 people have died in six serious earthquakes this year, with many thousands more left injured and homeless. . .

----- End Of Quote -----

In order to give you a clearer idea of how precisely Jesus' words have been fulfilled in our modern times, following is a table of some of the most notable earthquakes which have struck the Earth during the course of this past century. You will quickly notice that these temblors are truly occurring throughout the world; thus fulfilling the Lord's words when He said "in divers places". God is indeed shaking up the Earth as was prophesied so long ago. Due to the total number of significant earthquakes which have occurred during these past one hundred years, I cannot possibly include them all here. So as not to overburden you with statistics, I have filtered the information I obtained, and am only including those quakes which have resulted in a death toll of five victims or more, or which have a magnitude of 7.0 or greater on the Richter Scale. From all of the data I collected, if

we were to include those temblores which resulted in under five known deaths, we could add at least an additional four or five hundred victims to the tally below.

Before sharing this data with you, allow me to explain a few additional points to you. Please note that the magnitudes of these temblors, the number of people killed, and the number of people injured, are based upon many hours of compiling information from news reports, from seismographic reports from the USGS, as well as from reports from various other government agencies of different countries around the world, such as the Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources of Hannover, Germany. I can only share with you the information that I find, and these different sources do not always agree with each other. Not only that, but due to the remote locations where some of these earthquakes occur, or due to the government of the country involved where the temblor occurs not being willing to release information, it can often be difficult to obtain an accurate picture, and statistics, of the event.

To add to our difficulties, please also note that different countries use different systems of magnitude. For example, the United States of America uses the Richter Scale. As I mentioned in part six, the United States Geological Survey classifies an earthquake as being a major temblor when a magnitude of 7.0 or higher is recorded on the Richter Scale. This number is based upon an average which is derived from seismic information gathered from different stations around the world. At the same time, a significant earthquake is defined by the USGS as being one having a magnitude 6.5 or greater on the Richter Scale, or one which results in fatalities, injuries or substantial damage.

To complicate my research endeavors even further, in some cases, a magnitude was provided in body wave motion, or mb, while in others it was given in surface wave motion, or ms. I also discovered that the USGS normally seems to assign earthquakes with a higher magnitude than do other countries around the world. In part, this seems to be due to their interest in getting a figure to the mass media as soon as possible before all of the data has been fully analyzed. Oft times, they will later lower the preliminary magnitude, once more data has become available from some of their seismic stations; but in spite of this, it may still conflict with the magnitude figure released by the local government where the earthquake actually occurred.

Because of these various problems, compiling the following information posed some challenges. As a general rule, when you see only one magnitude listed below, it is more often than not the figure provided by the USGS, based upon the Richter Scale. Where a range is provided in which the two figures are very close to each other, this is also usually, but not always, based upon the Richter Scale. Where a range has a lower number which is significantly different from the higher figure, the higher figure is usually based upon the Richter Scale, while the lower figure is not. In such cases, simply understand that the actual magnitude was somewhere between the two figures, regardless of which scale was used.

Please also be aware of the fact that on some dates, a land location is provided which is closest to the earthquake's actual epicenter, even if the earthquake did not occur in that precise location, but rather in the nearby ocean or sea. Due to their remote location, or due to the fact that

some of these areas were or are sparsely populated, neither are fatalities and injuries provided for them. Being as this list has been compiled from various sources, I have placed the indicator 'Same?' next to those earthquakes which may be referring to the same event. While there may be a day's difference in some of them, please bear in mind that this may be due to the international dateline, as well as when and where the earthquakes are reported:

Magnitude	Location	Date	Killed	Injured
7.2	Turkey	11/12/99	452	3,000
7.3-7.7	Taiwan	9/20/99	2,100+	8,500+
5.8	Turkey	9/13/99	7+	420+
5.8-5.9	Greece (Athens)	9/7/99	72+	2,000
7.4	Turkey	8/17/99	15,000+	?
6.5	Mexico	6/15/99	20	dozens
7.1	Papua New Guinea	5/16/99	?	?
7.1	Papua New Guinea	5/10/99	?	?
5.9-6.3	Iran	5/6/99	26+	100
6.4-6.6	India/China	4/28/99	100+	394+
7.1	Russia/China	4/8/99	?	?
7.4	Papua New Guinea	4/5/99	?	?
7.1	Indonesia	3/4/99	?	?
5.4-5.8	Afghanistan	2/11/99	70+	500
7.3	Santa Cruz Is.	2/6/99	?	?
5.7-6.3	Columbia	1/25/99	1,200+	4,750+
7.0	Papua New Guinea	1/19/99	?	?

Total Fatalities For 1999.....19,078+

5.1	Afghanistan/Taj.	12/11/98	5	7
7.6-8.1	Indonesia (Ceram)	11/29/98	41+	161+
5.1-5.3	Iran	11/13/98	5	105
7.0	Indonesia	11/9/98	?	?
7.0	Japan (Bonnin)	8/20/98	?	?
7.1	Ecuador	8/4/98	?	?
5.8-7.1	Papua New Guinea	7/17/98	2,183+	1,000's
5.4-5.5	Taiwan	7/17/98	5	27
7.1	Santa Cruz Is.	7/16/98	?	?
5.9	Azores Islands	7/9/98	10	100
5.8-6.2	Turkey	6/27/98	145	1,500+
5.9-6.9	Afghanistan/Taj.	5/30/98	4-5,000	1,000's
5.9-6.6	Bolivia	5/22/98	105+	150
7.4	Taiwan	5/3/98	?	?
5.3-5.7	Iran	4/10/98	12+	20
7.0	Chile	4/1/98	?	?
7.2	Fiji Islands	3/29/98	?	?
7.7-8.3	Balleny Islands	3/25/98	?	?
5.9-6.9	Iran	3/14/98	5	50
5.6-6.1	Afghanistan	2/4/98	2,323-4,500+	818
7.0	Chile	1/30/98	?	?
5.7-6.2	China	1/10/98	50-70	11,500
7.0	Loyalty Islands	1/4/98	?	?

Total Fatalities For 1998.....8,889-12,086+

5.9	India/Bangladesh	11/21/97	23	200
7.5	Tibet	11/8/97	?	?
6.8	Chile	10/15/97	8	300+
5.5-5.6	Indonesia	9/28/97	17+	300+
5.5-5.6	Italy	9/26/97	11	115+
5.9	South Africa	7/21/97	15+	46
6.2-6.8	Venezuela Coast	7/9/97	81+	522
5.6-6.0	India	5/21/97	38+	1,000+
6.4-7.5	Iran	5/10/97	1,560-2,000	5,000

5.8-6.1	China	4/11/97	9+	89
5.5	Iran/Armen/Azerb.	2/28/97	965-1,100	2,600
6.3-7.3	Pakistan	2/27/97	57+	100's
5.9-6.8	Turkmenistan/Iran	2/4/97	88+	2,000
5.3-5.8	China	1/21/97	12+	40

Total Fatalities For 1997.....2,884-3,459+

6.5-7.3	Peru Coast	11/12/96	14+	560
6.6-7.6	Aleutian Islands	6/10/96	?	?
5.5-6.0	China	5/3/96	18+	300
5.2-5.8	Ecuador	3/28/96	27+	100
5.7-6.0	China	3/19/96	24+	128
6.5-8.2	Indonesia	2/17/96	108+	423+
6.4-6.5	China (Yunnan)	2/3/96	322+	16,925
6.3-7.6	Sulawesi, Indo.	1/1/96	8+	?

Total Fatalities For 1996.....521+

6.2-7.3	Egypt	11/22/95	8+	30
5.8-6.4	China (Yunnan)	10/23/95	36+	200
6.5-7.3	Mexico (Jalisco)	10/9/95	48+	200
5.8-6.9	Sumatra, Indo.	10/6/95	84	2,178
5.7-6.1	Turkey	10/1/95	101	348
5.4-5.7	China (Gansu)	7/21/95	14	60+
6.1-7.3	China/Myanmar	7/11/95	6	99
6.0-6.5	Greece	6/15/95	26	60
6.7-7.5	Russia (Sakhalin)	5/28/95	1,989	750
8.0	Tonga Islands	4/7/95	?	?
6.3	Columbia	3/8/95	42	400
6.3-6.6	Columbia	1/19/95	7	several
6.3-7.2	Japan (Kobe)	1/17/95	5,502-6,500	40,000

Total Fatalities For 1995.....7,863-8861+

6.1-7.1	Philippines	11/14/94	78+	225
7.4-8.3	Japan (Hokkaido)	10/4/94	10+	340+
7.3	Taiwan Straits	9/16/94	?	?
5.7-5.9	Algeria	7/18/94	159+	289
7.0-8.2	Bolivia	6/9/94	5+	many
6.4-6.6	Columbia	6/6/94	1,000	?
5.7-7.2	Java, Indonesia	6/2/94	250+	423
6.1	Iran	2/23/94	6	many
5.9-7.0	Sumatra, Indo.	2/15/94	207+	2,000
6.2-7.2	Indonesia	1/21/94	7	40
6.4-6.8	California, USA	1/17/94	60	7,000

Total Fatalities For 1994.....1,782+

6.4-7.0	New Guinea, PNG	10/13/93	60	several
6.3-6.4	India	9/30/93	9,784-22,000+	30,000
8.0-8.1	Guam, U.S.A.	8/8/93	none	48
6.6-7.8	Japan (Hokkaido)	7/12/93	200+	?
6.0	Peru	4/18/93	6	?
6.0-6.4	Fiji Islands Reg.	3/12/93	5	20+

Total Fatalities For 1993.....10,055-22,271+

6.5-7.5	Indonesia	12/12/92	2,200-2,500	500+
6.6-7.3	Columbia	10/18/92	11+	115
5.2-5.9	Egypt	10/12/92	541+	6,500+
6.5-6.7	Zaire	9/11/92	8	37
5.3-7.2	Nicaragua Coast	9/2/92	116+	?
6.6-7.4	Kyrgyzstan	8/19/92	75 approx.	?
6.0	Pakistan	5/20/92	36+	100
6.2-6.8	Turkey	3/13/92	498+	2,000

4.6-4.9 Iran 3/4/92 6+ 50

Total Fatalities For 1992.....3,491-3,791+

4.7 Arabia/Yemen 11/22/91 10 39
6.5-7.0 India 10/19/91 2,000+ 1,800+
5.7-6.1 Guatemala 9/18/91 25+ ?
5.1-5.4 Iran/Iraq 7/24/91 20+ many
4.7-5.0 Peru 7/23/91 12+ 30
6.2-6.5 Timor 7/4/91 23 181
6.1 Western Caucasus 6/15/91 8+ 200
5.5-5.7 Philippines 6/15/91 137+ ?
6.2-7.0 Western Caucasus 4/29/91 114+ 1,000
6.3-7.6 Costa Rica 4/22/91 47 109
6.5-6.8 Peru 4/5/91 53 252
? France 2/13/91 9 ?
6.4-6.8 Pakistan/Afghan. 1/31/91 1,200 100's

Total Fatalities For 1991.....3,658+

5.3-5.5 Sicily 12/13/90 19+ 200
6.2-6.7 Iran 11/6/90 22+ 100
6.0 Hindu Kush Reg. 10/25/90 11 250+
6.5-7.8 Philippines 7/16/90 1,621-2,000+ 3,500
5.6 Hindu Kush Reg. 7/13/90 43+ ?
5.3-5.8 Iran 6/21/90 20+ ?
6.4-7.7 Iran 6/20/90 40-50,000 60,000+
6.1-6.5 Peru 5/30/90 135+ 800+
6.7 Romania 5/30/90 14 700+
6.5-6.9 China (Qinghai) 4/26/90 126+ many
5.8-6.1 Pakistan 3/4/90 11+ 40

Total Fatalities For 1990.....42,022-52,401+

Total Fatalities For 1990-1999.....96,752-127,908+

5.4 Australia 12/27/89 12 100+
5.7 Algeria 10/29/89 30+ 245
6.5-7.1 California, USA 10/18/89 62 3,757
5.8-6.0 West Irian 8/1/89 120 125
8.2 Macquarie Islands 5/23/89 ? ?
6.1-6.2 Malawi 3/10/89 9+ 100
5.3 Tajik, SSR 1/22/89 274 many

Total Fatalities For 1989.....507+

6.2-6.8 Soviet Armenia 12/7/88 25,000+ 19,000
6.1-7.3 China/Burma 11/6/88 730 3,900
5.6 Guatemala 11/3/88 5 ?
6.4-6.6 India/Nepal 8/20/88 1,450 6553

Total Fatalities For 1988.....27,185+

7.9 Alaska, USA 11/30/87 ? ?
5.8-6.5 Timor 11/26/87 37+ 108
5.7-5.8 California, USA 10/1/87 8 many
6.4-6.9 Chile 8/8/87 5 112
5.5-6.0 Philippines 6/18/87 8 5
6.5-6.9 Columbia/Ecuador 3/6/87 1,000+ ?

Total Fatalities For 1987.....1,058+

8.0 Alaska, USA 5/7/86 ? ?
6.3-7.8 Taiwan 11/14/86 15 44
5.0-5.5 El Salvador 10/10/86 1,000-1,500 20,000
5.8-6.0 Greece 9/13/86 20+ 300
5.9 Turkey 5/5/86 15 100

5.3-5.5	Kashmir/India	4/26/86	6	30
4.6-5.3	Peru	4/5/86	16+	170

Total Fatalities For 1986.....1,072-1,572+

5.5-5.9	Algeria	10/27/85	6	?
5.8-5.9	Tajik, SSR	10/13/85	29+	80
6.8-8.1	Mexico City	9/19/85	6-35,000	40,000
5.9-6.3	West Irian Reg.	9/15/85	10+	7
6.4-7.3	China (Xinjiang)	8/23/85	71+	162
6.6	Hindu Kush Reg.	7/29/85	5+	38
5.6-6.1	Philippines	4/24/85	6	11
5.7-5.8	China (Yunnan)	4/18/85	23	300
6.7-7.8	Chile Coast	3/3/85	177+	2,575
5.9-6.0	Argentina	1/26/85	6	238+

Total Fatalities For 1985.....6,333-35,333+

5.6	India/Bangladesh	12/30/84	20	100
6.0-6.1	Japan (Honshu)	9/13/84	24+	?
4.7-5.1	Dominican Repub.	6/24/84	5	?

Total Fatalities For 1984.....49+

6.6	Hindu Kush Reg.	12/30/83	12	483
6.2-6.4	Northwest Africa	12/22/83	443+	150+
5.3-5.7	China	11/6/83	34	2,200
6.1-6.9	Turkey	10/30/83	1,342+	534+
7.3	Idaho, USA	10/28/83	?	?
6.4-7.3	Chile Coast	10/4/83	5+	24
6.2-6.5	Philippines	8/17/83	16	43
5.7-6.1	Turkey	7/5/83	5	25
6.8-7.7	Japan (Honshu)	5/26/83	104+	?
6.5-7.3	Costa Rica	4/3/83	6	several
4.9-5.5	Columbia	3/31/83	250-350	many
4.9-5.2	Iran	3/25/83	30	61
4.7	Yugoslavia	2/25/83	12	?

Total Fatalities For 1983.....2,259-2,359+

5.5-5.9	Flores Islands	12/25/82	13	390
6.2-6.6	Hindu Kush Reg.	12/16/82	450	many
6.0	Yemen	12/13/82	2,800-3,000	2,000
6.2	El Salvador	6/19/82	40+	many
5.5-5.6	China (Sichuan)	6/15/82	10	5

Total Fatalities For 1982.....3,313-3,513+

4.0-4.6	Pakistan	12/12/81	6	12
5.4	Venezuela	10/18/81	15	many
5.9-6.2	Kashmir	9/12/81	220+	2,500
5.7-7.1	Iran	7/28/81	1,500	1,000
5.1-5.2	Peru	6/22/81	6+	some
6.1-6.9	Iran	6/11/81	1,027-3,000	800+
4.8-5.3	Peru	4/18/81	8	15
5.9-6.7	Greece	2/24/81	16	400+
4.6	Italy	2/14/81	12	?
5.7-6.8	China (Sichuan)	1/23/81	150	300
6.0-6.7	Indonesia	1/19/81	305	some

Total Fatalities For 1981.....3,265-5,238+

5.6-5.8	Iran	12/19/80	26	?
6.0-6.9	Italy	11/23/80	3,000-3,500	7,750
6.4	Mexico	10/24/80	300+	many
6.5-7.3	Algeria	10/10/80	2,590-5,000	9,000

4.9-5.2	Kashmir/India	8/23/80	15	40+
5.6	Ecuador	8/18/80	8	100
6.1-6.5	Nepal/India	7/29/80	50-200	40+
6.0-6.7	Azores Islands	1/1/80	60	400+

Total Fatalities For 1980.....6,049-9,109+
Total Fatalities For 1980-1989.....51,090-85,923+
Total Fatalities For 1980-1999.....147,842-213,831+

6.4	Ecuador Coast	12/12/79	400-1,000	?
6.5-7.8	Iran	9/16/78	15,000	?
6.4-7.2	Romania	3/4/77	1,500	?
6.3	Uzbekistan	5/17/76	many	?
6.0-6.5	Italy	5/6/76	965-1,000	?
6.1-7.3	Iran/USSR	11/24/76	5,000 approx.	?
6.4-7.9	Philippines	8/16/76	8,000	?
6.3-8.0	China (Tangshan)	7/28/76	242-655,000	?
6.1-7.1	West Irian	6/25/76	5-9,000	?
6.2-7.5	Guatemala	2/4/76	23,000	?
6.1-6.7	Turkey	9/6/75	2,300-2,311	?
7.3-7.4	China	2/4/75	1,000-30,000	?
6.0	Pakistan	12/28/74	53,000	?
6.8	China (Yunnan)	5/10/74	20,000	?
6.2	Nicaragua	12/23/72	5,000	?
7.1	Iran (Southern)	4/10/72	5,054	?
7.8	Peru	5/31/70	66,000	?
7.3	Turkey (Gadiz)	3/28/70	1,100	?
7.5	China (Yunnan)	1/4/70	10,000	?

Total Fatalities For 1970-1979.....464,319-910,965
Total Fatalities For 1970-1999.....612,161-1,124,796+

5.9	China (Eastern)	7/25/69	3,000	?
7.3	Iran	8/31/68	12-20,000	?
7.1	Turkey (Varto)	8/19/66	2,520	?
8.7	Alaska, USA	2/4/65	?	?
9.2	Alaska, USA	3/27/64	?	?
6.0	Yugoslavia	7/26/63	1,100	?
7.3	Iran (Qazvin)	9/1/62	12,230	?
9.5	Chile	5/22/60	4-5,000	?
5.9	Morocco (Agadir)	2/29/60	10-15,000	?

Total Fatalities For 1960-1969.....44,850-58,850
Total Fatalities For 1960-1999.....657,011-1,183,646+

As we continue our discussion on earthquakes in part eight, I will be sharing some additional statistical tables with you which will cover the first half of our current century; after which I will conclude our discussion on this topic by making some additional comments which will reveal a few facts which are not made apparent by these figures. I will also be providing you with a pre-20th century earthquake chart, which we will use to make some important comparisons between the number of earthquakes which have occurred during this past century, and those which have occurred during the previous 1,800 years. As you will come to understand, this chart will further strengthen the points I have been making regarding the frequency of earthquakes in the Endtime. The stark contrast between these two periods will be readily apparent to anyone with an open mind and an honest heart.

After exposing a few additional excuses which some skeptics may try to use in order to refute the solid information I have provided, I will conclude part eight of our series by turning our attention to the next part of Jesus' prophecy concerning the period known as the "Beginning of Sorrows";

that is, to pestilences. This will begin with a brief look at verses concerning plagues, found in the Book of Revelation. I trust that you will join me.

Fulfilled Prophecy : The Beginning Of Sorrows : Part 8

More Earthquake Tables, Rounding Out The Picture, Pre-20th Century Earthquakes Chart, This Century Compared To History, Excuses For Not Believing, Endtime Plagues Of Revelation

[Images Removed From Text Version]

Let us continue now with our earthquake tables for the first half of our current century. As you will plainly see by the following data, there have been quite a few killer shakers:

7.3	Montana, USA	8/18/59	?	?
8.7	Japan (Kuril Is)	11/6/58	?	?
8.3	Alaska, USA	7/10/58	?	?
7.3	Iran	12/13/57	1,130	?
7.4	Iran	7/2/57	1,200	?
8.8	Alaska, USA	3/9/57	?	?
7.3	Nevada, USA	12/16/54	?	?
6.8	Algeria	9/9/54	1,250	?
9.0	Russia	11/4/52	?	?
7.5	California, USA	7/21/52	?	?
8.5-8.7	India/Tibet	8/15/50	4,000	?

Total Fatalities For 1950-1959.....7,580
 Total Fatalities For 1950-1999.....664,591-1,191,226+

6.8	Ecuador (Ambata)	8/5/49	6,000	?
7.3	Japan (Fukui)	6/28/48	5,390	?
7.3	China	5/25/48	1,000	?
8.4	Japan (Tonankai)	12/20/46	1,330	?
7.3	Peru	11/10/46	1,400	?
6.0	Turkey	5/31/46	1,300	?
7.1	Japan (Mikawa)	1/12/45	1,900	?
8.3	Japan (Tonankai)	12/7/44	1,000	?
7.4	Japan (Tottori)	9/10/43	1,190	?

Total Fatalities For 1940-1949.....20,510
 Total Fatalities For 1940-1999.....685,101-1,211,736+

7.9	Turkey (Erzincan)	12/26/39	30,000	?
8.3	Chile	1/25/39	28,000	?
8.3	Alaska, USA	11/10/38	?	?
8.5	Indonesia	2/1/38	?	?
7.0	China	8/1/37	3,300	?
7.5	Pakistan	5/30/35	30-60,000	?
7.1	Formosa/Taiwan	4/20/35	3,300	?
8.4	India	1/15/34	10,700	?
7.5	China	8/25/33	6,800	?
8.9	Japan (Sanriku)	3/2/33	2,990	?
7.6	China (Ganso)	12/25/32	70,000	?
8.0	China	8/11/31	10,000	?
6.5	Italy	7/23/30	1,430	?

Total Fatalities For 1930-1939.....196,520
 Total Fatalities For 1930-1999.....881,621-1,408,256+

7.4	Iran	5/1/29	3,300	?
7.3	California, USA	11/4/27	?	?

8.0	China	5/23/27	41,000	Same?
8.3	China (Xining)	5/22/27	200,000	Same?
7.9	Japan (Tango)	3/7/27	3,020	?
7.1	China (Yunnan)	3/16/25	3,600-5,000	?
8.3	Japan (Kanto)	9/1/23	143,000	?
7.3	China	3/24/23	5,000	?
8.5	Argentina	11/11/22	?	?
7.3	California, USA	1/31/22	?	?
8.5	China (Gansu)	12/16/20	200-234,000	?
7.3	China	2/13/20	1,000	?

Total Fatalities For 1920-1929.....599,920-635,329
Total Fatalities For 1920-1999.....1,481,541-2,043,585+

7.7	Nevada, USA	10/3/15	?	?
7.5	Italy	1/13/15	29,980	?
7.8	Marmara Sea	8/9/12	1,950	?

Total Fatalities For 1910-1919.....31,930
Total Fatalities For 1910-1999.....1,513,471-2,075,515+

7.5	Italy	12/28/08	70-100,000	?
8.1	Central Asia	10/21/07	12,000	?
6.5	Jamaica	1/14/07	1,600	?
8.6	Chile	8/17/06	20,000	?
7.7-8.3	California, USA	4/18/06	700	?
7.1	Formosa/Taiwan	3/17/06	1,300	?
8.9	Columbia	1/31/06	1,000	Same?
8.8	Ecuador	1/31/06	?	Same?
7.9	Italy	9/8/05	2,500	?
8.6	India	4/4/05	19,000	?
6.4	Turkestan	12/16/02	4,500	?
8.3	China	8/22/02	2,500	?
7.9	Alaska, USA	10/9/1900	?	?
8.2	Alaska, USA	9/10/1899	?	?
8.2	Alaska, USA	9/4/1899	?	?

Total Fatalities For 1899-1909.....135,100-165,100
Total Fatalities For 1899-1999.....1,648,571-2,240,615+

Thus we see that, based upon the figures I was able to find, there have been at the very least 1,648,571 to 2,240,615 fatalities caused by earthquakes over the past one hundred years alone. That, my friends, is a lot of people; almost two and a quarter million in fact; and I don't doubt that if it were possible to obtain figures for some of the other earthquakes in more remote areas, or from governments which failed to release figures for certain quakes, the mortality rate would undoubtedly be much higher than what is shown here. Two and a quarter million people is like the entire population of a major city of the world being totally wiped out of existence!

As I have explained earlier, while the USGS claims that earthquakes are not on the rise, please remember again, that they base their statement only on major earthquakes; that is, on those of an intensity of 7.0 or higher on the Richter Scale. If we hold strictly to their legalistic approach, then yes, it would appear that what they are saying is true; however, if we look at the many earthquakes which have been below this magnitude, but which have caused a lot of damage, as well as many fatalities, then we begin to gain a true picture of the situation; and not the distorted image which they are trying to foist upon the ignorant public which has no time or interest in performing the in-depth research which I have done for you here.

To put it another way, if we were to remove from the above list, all of those temblors which did not register at least a 7.0 on the Richter Scale, we would have to deduct many thousands of fatalities from our tally. Even though all of those people have died, when the USGS tells us that major earthquakes are not on the increase, they have to ignore all of those deaths from lesser quakes, in order to make their statement true. Allow me to reiterate an important point I made earlier. God does not require a temblor of 7.0 in order to fulfill His Divine Purposes, whatever they may happen to be. Through their legalistic approach of interpreting the previous data, and by dividing it up into different, smaller categories, not only is the USGS presenting only half of the picture, but they are also diminishing the full impact of what God has really been doing during our modern times.

So again; unless one takes the time to carefully examine all of the data, as I have done, then he will not realize the full scope of the deaths and damage caused by these Acts of God, or the increasing frequency with which these events are truly occurring, particularly during the past three decades. Following is another short table which combines earthquakes of magnitude 7.0 or higher, with those of lesser magnitude which have killed at least five people each. Again, please bear in mind that these totals are based only upon the data I was able to find during the several weeks that I conducted my investigation. They are probably not as complete as they could be; yet the sharp contrast between the first decade of this century, and the last decade of this century, simply cannot be ignored. The statistics speak for themselves:

Range : Minimum # Of Quakes With 5+ Deaths Or 7.0 Mag. :

1990 - 1999.....	125
1980 - 1989.....	66
1970 - 1979.....	19
1960 - 1969.....	9
1950 - 1959.....	11
1940 - 1949.....	9
1930 - 1939.....	13
1920 - 1929.....	12
1910 - 1919.....	3
1899 - 1909.....	15
Total.....	282

Following is another chart, based upon the previous data, which shows the approximate number of fatalities per decade for the past century. While the number of deadly earthquakes has increased noticeably during the past thirty years, if we take the low figures, more people died during the first half of this century. On the other hand, if we accept the higher figures, about 150,000 more people died during the last half of this century:

Decade Range : Minimum Number Of Fatalities :

1990 - 1999.....	96,752 - 127,908+
1980 - 1989.....	51,090 - 85,923+
1970 - 1979.....	464,319 - 910,965
1960 - 1969.....	44,850 - 58,850
1950 - 1959.....	7,580
1940 - 1949.....	20,510
1930 - 1939.....	196,520
1920 - 1929.....	599,920 - 635,329

1910 - 1919.....	31,930
1899 - 1909.....	135,100 - 165,100
Total.....	1,648,571 - 2,240,615+

While the total number of fatalities from the previous lists may shock you, these tables do not by any means provide a full picture of the disastrous effects of these powerful shakings of the Earth. If anything, I have given you a very conservative image of the results of these events. As I have noted earlier, I have only listed those temblors which have resulted in five or more deaths, and for which I was able to obtain concrete data. There are many thousands of people who have simply disappeared, and who can only be presumed to be dead. There have also been many quakes over the past century for which there is simply no data whatsoever, due to the reasons I mentioned earlier. Furthermore, there are hundreds of earthquakes not listed here which, while few or no deaths resulted from them, there were dozens, hundreds, and even thousands of injuries. Collectively, these figures add up to literally millions of people injured by these temblors over the past century alone. You will easily notice from the statistics that I have provided, that the number of injuries is quite often much, much higher than the actual number of fatalities.

To add to this horrific picture, the previous lists do not even give you a glimpse of the millions of people who have been left homeless by these events, or of the millions of buildings which have been either partially or completely destroyed. Collectively-speaking, from the data which I gathered, it became apparent to me that at the very least, hundreds of villages and towns have been completely erased from the face of the Earth by these temblors during the past one hundred years alone. Neither do the previous tables reveal the thousands which have been killed by the resulting tsunamis, or tidal waves, such as in the case of the quake which occurred in Papua New Guinea. Not all of the deaths which resulted from these events were due to actual injuries either. I discovered many examples where people died from heart attacks. I am reminded of something the Lord said in one of His Endtime sermons:

"Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken."

Luke 21:26, KJV

Let us continue now to our next topic regarding earthquakes. Everything I have presented to you thus far, only gives us a clear picture of the past one hundred years of history; and it is based upon this very short period, compared to the six thousand years of man's existence upon this planet, that the USGS is making its misguided claims. Personally, I find it rather ludicrous that professional people, who claim to rely upon the scientific method of analysis, would draw upon such a limited source of information, in order to form their conclusions; but then, I believe that they purposely do this in order to promote a certain false impression, as I have already clearly explained.

Having said that, it is now time for us to compare the data of the past century, with all other available historical records, in order to see if it is indeed true that, as Peter wrote of the Endtime scoffers, ". . . all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation". Following

then is one more table in which I have listed the data for earthquakes which have been recorded down through history from 63 A.D., to 1897 A.D. Please be reminded again that all of this data is readily available on the World Wide Web, and that I cannot assume any responsibility for its accuracy:

Date :	Magnitude :	Deaths :	Location :
6/12/1897	8.7	1,425	Assam, India
6/15/1896	7.6	27,122	Sanriku, Japan
10/28/1891	?	7,270	Mino-Owari, Japan
2/23/1887	8.1	640-1,000	Ligurian Province, Italy
8/27/1886	8.4	1,000	Messina, Italy
12/25/1884	?	2,000+	Andalusia, Spain
7/28/1883	?	2,300	Casamicciola, Italy
4/3/1881	7.3	10,000	Khios, Greece
5/3/1875	7.3	2,000+	Asia Minor, Turkey
4/2/1872	7.3	1,800	Antakya, Turkey
4/11/1870	?	2,300	Sichuan Province, China
8/16/1868	?	70,000	Equador - Colombia
8/13/1868	?	40,000	Peru and Bolivia
4/22/1863	?	many	Rhodos, Greece
12/26/1861	7.5	many	Akhaia, Greece
3/21/1861	?	18,000	Mendoza, Argentina
6/2/1859	?	15,000	Erzurum, Turkey
12/16/1857	5.1	12,000+	Naples, Italy
11/11/1855	6.9	6,760	Sagami, Japan
4/11/1855	6.7	400-1,300	Northwest Turkey
2/28/1855	6.7	2,000	Northwest Turkey
12/24/1854	8.4	3,000	Simoda, Japan
4/21/1853	?	12,000	Shiraz, Iran
10/12/1851	?	2,000	Albania
8/7/1847	?	many	El Faiyum, Egypt
5/8/1847	7.4	12,000	Nagano Zenkoji, Japan
1/23/1838	7.3	many	Vrancea, Romania
1/1/1837	?	5,000+	Safad, Israel
4/24/1836	?	12,300	Rossano Calabro, Italy
1/19/1833	?	many	Valona, Albania
3/21/1829	?	1,000+	Murcia, Spain
12/18/1828	?	30,000	Echigo Sanjo, Japan
3/2/1825	?	2,000+	Blida, Algeria
1/19/1825	?	many	Levkas, Greece
9/5/1822	?	22,000	Halab (Aleppo), Turkey
8/13/1822	?	1,000	Antakya - Halab, Turkey
6/16/1819	?	2,000	Kutch, India
3/26/1812	?	20,000	Caracas, Venezuela
2/16/1810	?	2,000	Crete, Greece
7/26/1805	?	5,600	Molise Province, Italy
10/26/1802	7.1	2,000	Romania
2/4/1797	?	40,000	Ecuador - Peru
2/5/1783	7.1	50,000	Rosarno, Calabria, Italy
10/30/1759	?	30,000	Jordan Valley, Syria
11/1/1755	8.7	70,000	Lisbon, Portugal
6/7/1755	?	40,000	Kashan Quehan, Iran
5/20/1751	6.6	2,000	Echigo Takada, Japan
6/7/1750	6.1	2,000	Kythera, Greece
10/11/1737	?	300,000	Calcutta, India
12/30/1730	?	137,000	Hokkaido, Japan
11/18/1727	?	77,000	Tabriz, Iran
5/?/1715	?	20,000	Algeria
8/16/1711	?	many	Mexico
10/28/1707	?	4,900	Shikoko, (Japan?)
12/31/1703	8.2	5,230	Odowara, Tokyo, Japan
12/21/1701	?	many	Oaxaca, Mexico
1/11/1693	?	60,000	Catania, Sicily, Italy
7/5/1688	?	15,000	Izmir, Turkey

11/?/1667	?	80,000	Shemakha, Caucasus
2/23/1653	?	15,000	Izmir, Turkey
5/13/1647	8.5	1,000	Santiago, Chile
11/27/1645	8.3	4,100	Near Karachi, Pakistan
11/26/1643	7.6	4,020	Central Anatolia, Turkey
12/20/1642	7.3	3,000	Turkey
2/5/1641	?	30,000	Tabriz, Iran
10/25/1622	?	12,000	Kansu, China
1/23/1556	?	830,000	Shansi Province, China
?/?/1549	?	3,000	Qain, Iran
1/26/1531	?	30,000	Lissabon, Portugal
12/5/1456	?	30,000	Neapel-Brindisi, Italy
5/20/1293	?	30,000	Kamakura, Japan
9/?/1290	?	100,000	Gulf of Chihli, China
?/?/1268	?	60,000	Silicia, Turkey
8/9/1183	?	230,000	Aleppo, Syria
?/?/1057	?	25,000	Chihli, China
1/24/1038	?	2,200	Shansi Province, China
3/23/893	?	150,000	Ardabil, Iran
12/22/856	?	200,000	Damghan, Iran
12/?/856	?	45,000	Korinth, Greece
?/?/565	?	30,000	Antakya, Turkey
?/?/342	?	40,000	Antakya, Turkey
?/?/77	?	many	Cyprus region
?/?/63	?	many	Pompeii, Italy

Total Deaths : 3,163,367 - 3,164,627+

Before we begin to make any kind of adjustments to these numbers, let us first make a few comparisons with the raw statistics. As I noted earlier in part seven, during the past one hundred years, from 1899 to 1999, a minimum of 282 earthquakes were recorded which were either of magnitude 7.0 or greater, thus classifying them as major earthquakes, or which are considered as significant earthquakes by the USGS, because they resulted in high fatality rates, and/or in extensive structural damage. In contrast, during the period 63 - 1897, or a period of 1,834 years, a minimum of only eighty-two earthquakes were recorded by historians, which meet the USGS requirements for being considered as major or significant earthquakes. In other words, this is a ratio of over 3.4 to 1, in favor of this past century.

To present this data from a different perspective, in order to honestly say that "all things continue as they were", then the total number of major or significant earthquakes during the previous 1,834 years would have to be much, much higher. Allow me to prove my point with a little bit of simple arithmetic. If for the sake of simplicity we drop the thirty-four years, and just take the 1,800 years, and then divide that number by one hundred, we see that we have a total of eighteen centuries. That being the case, we would have to take these eighteen centuries and multiply them by 282 quakes per century, in order to see how many major or significant earthquakes would have to have occurred, in order for that whole period to be on par with this past century. The answer is an astounding 5,076 temblors at the very minimum! Now, there are only two possibilities here as far as I can tell. Either our historians were very poor historians indeed, and simply forgot to record literally thousands of them, or else they never happened; the latter of which would obviously agree with our Lord's words!

I have no doubt that some of my detractors are going to present a number of different silly, and weak, arguments, in order to try to contradict the proofs I have presented here.

For example, they might point out that while I have included in my previous list those quakes which resulted in a minimum of five fatalities or more, perhaps our historians didn't consider such events to be important enough to record in the annals of history. To silence such gainsayers, I will be very generous, and will deduct all earthquakes from my list which resulted in under one hundred fatalities each. That still leaves us with a total of 174 major or significant earthquakes that have occurred during the past one hundred years alone, as opposed to only eighty-two recorded by our historians over the past 1,800 years. This means that to be on par with the average for this past century, historians would still have to have recorded at least 3,132 temblors during the past 1,800 years prior to this century.

It is probable that there will still be some hardhearted skeptics who will try to accuse me of juggling these figures in some way, in order to make them say what I want them to say. Sadly, some people will not be convinced of the truth, no matter what one tells them, and regardless of what length one might go to in order to prove his point. Nevertheless, to take this a step further, so that there is no doubt that significant and major earthquakes have indeed occurred at unprecedented levels during the past one hundred years, as compared to the record left to us by historians, I will now even go so far as to deduct every single earthquake from my list which has a question mark listed under the death toll, because I was unable to find a precise number; even though said quake qualifies as a major or significant earthquake according to its magnitude. If we do this, we are still left with 130 earthquakes for the past century, as opposed to eighty-two for the previous eighteen centuries. Performing the same kind of math, we discover that the past eighteen centuries would have to have produced a minimum of 2,340 major or significant earthquakes in order to be on par with the average for this past century.

Now friends, let's be honest with ourselves. We all know that in times prior to this current century, the methods of communication were not nearly as good as they are at this present time. There was no Internet, or satellite arrays circling the Earth, or undersea fiber optic cables, or national and international radio and television networks, or national and international telephone services, etc. In like manner, we can also readily admit that the means of travel were also much more limited, so that news of such disastrous events would travel more slowly; and some places would never even hear of them whatsoever. There were no high-speed jets or airplanes, or national railroad systems, or eight-lane superhighways. Life moved along at a much more leisurely pace; including news from other parts of the world. To add to these points, we can also recognize that some historical documents have been lost due to time and decay, or perhaps due to fire or natural disasters, and maybe even destroyed intentionally by those who seek to manipulate history.

The point is, if someone wants to convince himself, in fact deceive himself, into believing that Jesus' words regarding earthquakes and other "Beginnings of Sorrows" have not come to pass precisely as He said they would, then he will find a way to do it. As the Apostle Paul was inspired to write:

"But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived."

2 Timothy 3:13, KJV

In spite of these different possibilities, I still maintain that our learned historians were not such disorganized, or misinformed men, that they were only able to leave us with a record of eighty-two significant or major earthquakes during the past 1,800 years. In other words, if those extra 2,340 to 5,076 deadly earthquakes are not recorded somewhere, at least partially recorded, in the annals of history, then I can only conclude that it is because they more than likely never really happened. To refresh your memory, those are the numbers that would be necessary in order to give us the same average per century for the past eighteen centuries, as the minimum number of significant and major earthquakes recorded during the past one hundred years. For you skeptics, like the USGS, who fight against, and try to disprove our Lord's words, where is your proof if I may ask? How can you boast of such shallow claims based upon one hundred years of solid data alone? Isn't this being rather unscientific? In fact, if you carefully read their explanation again, you will see that some of their claims are even based upon data only from the past three decades!

While I have concentrated on the actual number of quakes for the past century, as opposed to the total numbers for the past eighteen centuries, please bear in mind that even if we choose to concentrate on the number of quake fatalities, and juggle those figures around, we still end up with similar results. As you may recall, the last one hundred years have resulted in a minimum of 1,648,571-2,240,615+ earthquake-related deaths, while the previous 1,800 years have claimed a minimum of 3,163,367 to 3,164,627+ lives. While the second figures are almost one million fatalities more, don't forget that they represent eighteen centuries of earthquakes, while the first figures only correspond to one. I will leave it up to you to figure out the averages, the ratios, etc., if you are interested in doing so. As for me, in my mind, I am convinced that God's mighty Hand has indeed been felt the world over during the past one hundred years, in a way which it has never been felt before. His Endtime Judgments, the "Beginning of Sorrows", are indeed beginning to fall upon this evil and unbelieving world. Only the spiritually blind can deny this.

Having now amply discussed two major signs which the Lord said would occur in the years prior to His Second Coming, let us move on now to a third; that is, to pestilences. Let us review the verses from Matthew chapter twenty-four in order to refresh our memories:

"For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows."

Matthew 24:7-8, KJV

Exactly what does the Lord mean by "pestilence"? According Thayer's Greek English Lexicon, this word is derived from the Greek word "loimos" -- pronounced loy'-mos -- which means pestilence, a pestilent fellow, pest, or plague. If we consider some of the descriptive verses which are found in the Book of Revelation, it becomes apparent that Jesus was most likely referring to the final definition; that is, to plagues of various kinds, including diseases, and other afflictions upon the human body, brought about by the Seven Angels of the Endtime, and the Two Sackcloth Witnesses of Revelation chapter eleven. Consider these verses:

"And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and

silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts."

Revelation 9:20-21, KJV

"These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will."

Revelation 11:6, KJV

"And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God...And the seven angels came out of the temple, having the seven plagues, clothed in pure and white linen, and having their breasts girded with golden girdles...And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled."

Revelation 15:1, 6, 8, KJV

"And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory."

Revelation 16:9, KJV

"And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues...Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her."

Revelation 18:4, 8, KJV

"And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife."

Revelation 21:9, KJV

"For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:"

Revelation 22:18, KJV

If you take the time to read the Book of Revelation more thoroughly, as well as study my articles, you will see that the plagues of the Book of Revelation include such things as extended droughts, huge brushfires which burn up forests and plains, severe pollution of our streams, rivers, lakes and oceans so that much of the life in them dies, painful boils upon the skin of men, deadly heat waves, etc. While I do not believe that the previously-mentioned plagues have begun yet in earnest, I do believe that we are currently experiencing what seem to be their precursors, as the remainder of this series will reveal. Please remember that Jesus told us that all of these things are merely the "Beginning of Sorrows". In other words, what we are witnessing now is only the tip of the iceberg. God's most intense chastisements upon this wicked and rebellious world are yet to occur. If people are weeping and lamenting now, wait until they see what is yet to come!

So exactly what are these precursors of which I speak? This is a question which I will address in the next part of our series, beginning with the deadly AIDS virus which is at this time ravaging the world, beginning with the continent of Africa in particular. We will also look at other serious afflictions which have plagued our modern society; including new drug-resistant super-strains, and other pathogens which man still has been unable to conquer. I trust that you will join me.

Fulfilled Prophecy : The Beginning Of Sorrows : Part 9

AIDS, Drug-Resistant Super-Strains, Same Wars With Old Germs

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So exactly what are these precursors of which I speak? For one thing, they are the many diseases which have afflicted our modern society. Undoubtedly, the one which has affected our lives the most, is the AIDS virus, or Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome. If you have already become alarmed by the fact that between between 36,265,000 and 175,456,000 people have lost their lives due to war during this past century, and that some two and a quarter million people or more have died from earthquakes during this same period, consider the fact that in less than two decades, the AIDS virus has claimed over 11,000,000 lives in Africa alone, and over 300,000 more victims in the United States of America! Since the late 1980's, this angel of death has silently swept the entire world, leaving dozens of millions more infected with its life-robbing cells.

Despite man's modern science and technology, not only has he not been able to find a cure for this dreaded disease, but he hasn't even been able to slow it down in its deadly path. Because of this fact, and because the treatment prescribed to merely suppress the disease is so expensive, costing some \$15,000 US annually, the vast majority of those people who are currently infected with HIV, or who may become infected in the near future, will never be treated, and will thus die. Consider the following reports which appeared in the world press during the months of August through November 1999 which confirm these facts. They are shocking!:

----- Begin Quotes -----

AIDS Spreading Rapidly In Africa Despite Measures

LUSAKA, Zambia (Reuters) -- The AIDS epidemic is expanding rapidly in sub-Saharan Africa despite all initiatives to halt it, researchers Monday told a conference in Lusaka on the spread of the disease. They said a lack of awareness about the virus did not appear to be behind the failure of health campaigns, because many people knew the basic facts about AIDS: that it is spread mainly by sexual intercourse and it could be fatal. At least 11 million people have died of AIDS in Africa, and 22 million more have been infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. By 2005, AIDS costs will represent more than half of Kenya's and two-thirds of Zimbabwe's government health spending, according to the U.N. AIDS agency.

. . .

UNICEF Reveals 'World's Worst Undeclared War'

. . . Carol Bellamy, head of the UN Children's Fund, UNICEF, described AIDS and the HIV infection as the world's worst undeclared war which had turned sub-Saharan Africa into a 'virtual killing field'. She said the threat had reached 'monstrous proportions' and warned that time was running out. Miss Bellamy said that while an estimated 200,000 people had been killed in conflicts in Africa last year, more than two million had died during the same time from Aids. And whereas the United States currently spends more than \$800m a year fighting HIV infection, the annual figure in Africa - where at least two thirds of the world's HIV infected people live - the figure is only \$160m . . . 'By any measure the HIV Aids pandemic is the most terrible undeclared war in the world, with the whole of sub-Saharan Africa virtually a killing field. The hour is late; time is running out,' Miss Bellamy said. 'The monstrous proportions of the HIV/Aids pandemic in sub-Saharan Africa show that far from [being] simply another new problem among other development problems, the disease is rapidly becoming a significant and growing threat to peace and stability throughout the entire world . . .'

. . .

HIV On Rise In Vietnam, 600 New Cases A Month

CNN -- Vietnam has recorded 16,175 people with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), and around 600 new cases are being reported each month, the official Vietnam News Agency (VNA) said Thursday.

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USA Today -- AIDS experts called Sunday for Asia to act urgently to control the epidemic's rapid spread on the continent, saying it threatens millions of lives and a reversal of the region's economic growth. An estimated 7 million people are living with HIV or AIDS in the Asia-Pacific. Experts urged the region to learn a lesson from Africa, which has 21 million cases that account for two-thirds of the world's infections. To control the spread of AIDS, speakers Sunday suggested the need for sex education - which is not allowed in many Asian schools.

. . .

Associated Press -- About 1 million people in the Western Pacific are now infected with HIV and the rate of infection is rising rapidly in many countries in the region, the World Health Organization said today. Last year, WHO officials estimated there were about 700,000 HIV infections in the region and 40,000 actual cases of AIDS. If left unchecked, they said, the number of HIV infections in the region will exceed 1.5 million in 2000 . . .

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HIV Conference Opens With Warning Against Complacency

ATLANTA -- More than 2,000 scientists, doctors, researchers and advocates have gathered in Atlanta for the National HIV Prevention Conference, organized by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and 17 other sponsoring

organizations.

In the nearly two decades since the first cases of AIDS were reported, the deadly virus has claimed more than 300,000 lives. The good news is that the number of new HIV infections has dropped from about 100,000 a year to 40,000.

But at the same time, the epidemic is taking a greater toll on women and minorities, especially blacks who are becoming infected with AIDS at record rates, federal health officials said.

. . .

CDC: Decline In AIDS Deaths Slows Dramatically

The sharp decline in AIDS deaths that began two years ago with the development of powerful new drugs has suddenly been cut in half, raising questions about whether the medications are already losing their punch, health officials said Monday. AIDS killed 17,047 people in the United States last year -- a decline of 20 percent from 1997. From 1996 to 1997, the drop in deaths was a much more dramatic 42 percent, which health officials attributed to the effectiveness of new drugs . . . In 1995, 49,351 people died from AIDS in the United States. By 1996, that dropped to 36,792, and the number was down to 21,222 in 1997 . . . Most people who know they have HIV are already being treated Drug resistance among some AIDS patients causes the treatment to fail, and other patients fail to keep up with the complicated juggling of pills they have to take for the drugs to be effective. 'Our worst fears have become a tragic reality,' said Steven Fisher of the advocacy group AIDS Action. 'AIDS drugs don't work for everyone and aren't a cure for anyone.' New HIV infections in 1998 were estimated at roughly 40,000 -- a number that's held steady for the past decade . . .

. . .

Study: HIV Cannot Be Eradicated From Body

BALTIMORE (CNN) -- HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, cannot be eradicated from a patient's body even when it is undetectable in the blood, according to a study released Saturday by the National Institutes of Health.

Researchers had hoped that after taking anti-HIV drugs for more than a year, patients with HIV could stop treatment and the virus would not return. The study results appear to indicate that patients may need to continue drug therapy for the long term.

"It's going to be very difficult to take somebody off therapy and feel that the virus is not going to bounce back," said Dr. Anthony Fauci, who headed the research team. The study results were made public at a virology conference in Baltimore on Saturday.

Fauci and colleagues followed 18 HIV-positive patients who had been on the drugs for more than a year and in whom HIV had been reduced to undetectable levels. The researchers then took the patients off the drugs to see if the virus came back: It did, in all 18 patients, within three weeks.

Scientists had calculated that the HIV virus was capable of

hiding in body reservoirs unreachable by drugs for as long as 60 years.

They had hoped to be able to flush the HIV from the reservoirs, either with the help of a drug called Interleukin-2 or with the passage of time. The scientists then thought the drugs would kill the virus as it emerged from the reservoirs.

"It does tell us that, given the currently available regimens that we have of antiviral drugs, we are not going to eliminate or eradicate the virus from individuals," Fauci said.

. . .

First Half Of 1999 In Russia Sees 5,000 New HIV Cases Reported

Some 5,000 new cases of HIV infection were reported in Russia in the first six months of 1999, raising fears that 20,000 people could be afflicted by the end of the year, Interfax reported Sunday. The latest figures signal an upsurge from 1998 when a total of 3,500 cases of infection from HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, were reported for the entire year, the news agency said quoting the Federal AIDS Center. The center warned that the number of infections could reach one million by 2002 . . . The report did not give a figure for the total number of HIV cases in Russia . . .

. . .

70% Or More Rise In Russian HIV Cases

The number of HIV-positive cases registered in Russia jumped by 70 percent in the first eight months of 1999 as the disease spread rapidly among drug addicts, the Interfax news agency reported Saturday . . . 'Residents of Moscow and the Moscow region account for the unprecedented growth in HIV infection,' he said. 'HIV hit the circle of the capital's drug users and the infection skyrocketed.' Although he said cases were up 70 percent, Shevchenko did not give any figures for how many people in Russia have HIV, the virus that causes AIDS . . . Russian officials warn that the actual number of HIV cases may be up to 10 times higher than reported. The country has been slow to implement comprehensive diagnostic and treatment programs and is focusing on more immediate economic problems.

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While the AIDS epidemic may top world headlines insofar as disease control and prevention are concerned, it is by no means the only plague which the Lord is currently using in order to chastise the world for its sins. As the following reports clearly reveal, there is a wide variety of other dangerous and sometimes-fatal diseases which are currently on the rise. These reports include cholera, tuberculosis, bubonic plague, viral meningitis, anthrax, staphylococcus aureus, hepatitis C., E. coli bacteria, and several unknown pathogens as well. The reports I will be sharing with you below, appeared in major news services around the world such as UPI, The London Times, the BBC, the Associated Press, the Washington Post, CNN, the Nando Times, etc.

Similar to the false impression we may receive by reading only one earthquake report in the newspaper, to hear of one outbreak of disease likewise does not seem very significant; however, when we consider a wide range of reports, then the picture begins to become rather alarming. Take, for example, the following reports which deal with various drug-resistant diseases, once thought to have been conquered, which are now plaguing both the eastern and western hemispheres. These reports were published during the months of August and September of 1999:

----- Begin Quotes -----

Russian Drug-Resistant TB Alarms The Western Nations

A disease that once cut a swath through Europe's brightest and best is again laying waste to Russia. Tuberculosis, virtually eliminated a generation ago, has now infected at least half a million people, and threatens to spread from villages, prisons and ramshackle hospitals to the rest of the country. What is terrifying Western health officials is that a new form of the disease, resistant to modern drugs, is increasingly taking hold in Russia. Inadequate and primitive attempts to deal with the near-epidemic have merely boosted the prevalence of multi-drug-resistant (MDR) tuberculosis, especially in the fetid and overcrowded prisons. Within a decade, medical experts say, Russia could have two million almost incurable TB patients. The disease, principally incubated among the huge prison population of more than a million, is rapidly being spread by the release of 300,000 prisoners a year. Of these, about 10,000 are carrying MDR TB and each person passes on the disease to at least 20 others, health officials estimate. Sooner or later, Western health officials believe, TB will cross Russia's borders, putting all of Western Europe at risk . . .

. . .

Drug-Resistant Staph Infections Hit The General Public

Federal health officials are warning doctors about a drug-resistant bacteria that has killed four people and sickened scores of others in the Midwest and until recently had been confined to hospitals and nursing homes. The deaths of four previously healthy children in Minnesota and North Dakota from the bacteria, staphylococcus aureus, have prompted an investigation by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. There is no cause for panic, said Dr. Timothy Naimi, a CDC epidemiologist with the Minnesota Department of Health. 'This is not in any way a widespread epidemic,' Naimi said Friday. 'The risk to any individual of getting an infection from staph aureus is very low.' But doctors need to be aware of the bacteria when making decisions on how to test for infections and how to treat them. A colleague of Naimi's, Michael Osterholm, calling the infections 'a real wake-up call to clinicians.' One-quarter of all humans carry staph bacteria, but drug-resistant infections were largely thought to be contracted only in hospitals and nursing homes. The deaths of the children, from diverse ethnic backgrounds and environments, indicate healthy people could be susceptible to the strain . . .

. . .

Super Bacteria Appear In Britain

British public health officials report a potentially lethal bacterium currently resistant to every known antibiotic has shown up for the first time in a British hospital. The British newspaper The Guardian today published an article saying the discovery has provoked fears that medicine faces a return to the dark, pre-penicillin days when all surgery risked infection and death. According to the news report, there were two cases at Glasgow Royal Infirmary which this summer prompted alarm in the medical community about a so-called superbug resistant to every antibiotic. The newspaper says a hunt was quickly begun for all persons who came into contact with one of the infected patients after he left the hospital carrying the dangerous bacterium . . . An outbreak in New York took four years and \$10m to bring under control . . .

----- End Of Quotes -----

In addition to these new super-strains of viruses and bacteria which resist annihilation by all current technologies known to man, the war of antibiotics also continues to be waged against other destructive pathogens which have long plagued our human society; as is clearly revealed by the following series of reports:

Cholera Kills 29 Iraqis In Recent Weeks, Paper Says

Twenty-nine Iraqis have died from cholera that has been spreading through Iraq in recent weeks, a newspaper run by President Saddam Hussein's eldest son Uday said on Tuesday. Nabdh al-Shabab weekly quoted Health Ministry Director-General Abdul-Jabbar Abdul-Abbas as saying 705 cases of cholera had been registered in Iraq recently.

. . .

Severe Outbreak Of Meningitis In Romania

More than 3,000 cases of viral meningitis have been identified in the European nation of Romania since early July, the health ministry said Monday. According to a ministry report, several hundred cases of the potentially fatal disease broke out over a four-day period, but doctors have not seen serious cases and were able to treat those infected. The ministry said 17 regions had been affected, notably in the north around Iasi where 687 cases were reported, and around nearby Botosani, where 346 people have been stricken. Doctors said poor sanitation in parts of this impoverished country - where running water is sometimes cut off due to unpaid bills - is responsible for the epidemic, adding that it has not been stopped. On Aug. 19, health authorities had recorded more than 2,400 cases of the disease. The ministry advised people to respect normal standards of hygiene and to protect themselves against mosquitoes, which spread the disease . . .

. . .

One Third Of Global Population Now Infected With TB

Nearly a third of the world's population is infected with the bacterium that causes tuberculosis, according to a new report, with 7.96 million new cases of the disease reported in 1997. The study, by the World Health Organization (WHO), blamed poor control strategies for the situation, adding

that more than half of the new cases reported in 1997 occurred in five Southeast Asian countries. Control failures also were cited for high rates in sub-Saharan Africa and Eastern Europe, along with high rates of HIV infection in some African countries, where the disease has hit people whose immune systems have been weakened. The study, published in today's Journal of the American Medical Association, estimated that in the 212 countries monitored by WHO, 1.86 billion people, or 32 percent of the global population, carry the bacterium that causes the disease . . .

. . .

Health Crisis In Russia Deteriorates

Almost six million Russian men are missing from the nation's expected statistical profile - killed by drink, accidents, suicide, poor healthcare and high male infant mortality. This alarming figure has been released in a United Nations report that gives grim support to the growing concern over Russia's falling birthrate, low life expectancy and unusually high male mortality rate. It comes amid reports of the reappearance on Russia's borders of diseases such as anthrax and bubonic plague, once considered conquered but now causing deaths in Siberia and southern Russia. Russia's population has fallen by two million in the past decade already, from 148 million to 146 million. A particular worry is the high death rate of men, maintaining Russia's unenviable position of having one of the biggest gender imbalances in the world - a position it held 50 years ago after the very high casualties of the Second World War. The UN report estimates that there are 5.9 million fewer men in Russia than there would be in a country where the sex ratio was the normal 96 men per 100 women. In Ukraine, it says, there are a further 2.6 million men missing. Similar gaps are found in Belarus and Moldova. The total number of men missing from throughout the former Soviet Union is nine million . . .

. . .

Many Americans Carry Hepatitis C Virus

At least 2.7 million Americans carry the hepatitis C virus, making it the most common blood-borne infection in the United States, a study found. The study from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta is the first look at the prevalence of hepatitis C in the United States. The estimate was published in today's New England Journal of Medicine. 'This is what we consider a conservative estimate,' said Harold S. Margolis of CDC. 'This is everyday Mr. and Mrs. American who live in a household. This doesn't include the homeless and the prison population. The number could be higher.' . . . Scientists discovered the virus in 1989. People who inject illegal drugs or engage in unprotected sex account for most people who carry hepatitis C, but people who had blood transfusions before mid-1992 also are at risk. The disease and alcohol abuse rank as the leading causes of liver disease. The infection can lead to cirrhosis and liver cancer and results in about 1,000 liver transplants annually in the United States . . .

. . .

Japan Food Poisoning Epidemic Shows No Sign Of Slowing

SAKAI, Japan (CNN) -- Japan's worst food poisoning case in 50 years is showing no signs of easing. Since Friday, more than 5,000 schoolchildren in the Japanese city of Sakai, near Osaka, have been sickened. More than 400 remained hospitalized Tuesday, and 17 were in serious condition.

Health officials believe that school lunches contaminated with the potentially fatal O-157 E. coli bacteria caused the outbreak. Each school prepares its own lunches, but all get their food from the same suppliers. Officials suspect a lunch distributed on July 5 was responsible. Sea eel sushi and a clear soup were on the menu that day.

The bacteria, which is highly infectious, can take four to five days to manifest its symptoms, which include diarrhea, nausea and a high fever. Hospitals in and around Sakai have been flooded with food poisoning victims since last week.

Earlier this year, E. coli outbreaks in other parts of Japan, including Tokyo and Hiroshima, killed three children and an elderly woman.

Food poisoning associated with the O-157 strain is fairly common in the United States, where about 20,000 cases are reported annually, experts say.

. . .

More Than 140 Down With E. Coli Poisoning In Illinois

More than 140 people were sickened with a potentially deadly strain of E. coli after partying in a cow pasture last weekend, and state health officials were scrambling to reach more than 1,800 others who were there. It is the second major E. coli outbreak in two weeks. In New York state, two people have died and more than 600 others who attended a county fair have E. coli symptoms. New York health officials estimate as many as 1,000 people may have been infected, which would make it the worst E. coli outbreak in U.S. history. The worst outbreak was in 1993 when 700 patrons of Jack in the Box restaurants in Washington state were sickened by E. coli bacteria linked to undercooked hamburger and four died . . .

. . .

Major E. Coli Outbreak In New York Leaves 290 Sick

The largest E. coli outbreak in state history - and possibly one of the worst nationally - has sickened nearly 300 people who believe they were infected after attending a county fair. The outbreak at the Washington County Fair about 35 miles north of Albany has led to one fatality, 3-year old Rachel Aldrich of Clifton Park . . . Health officials were still investigating the outbreak's cause, but suspected the fair's water supply may have been contaminated when rainwater runoff washed cow feces from a nearby farm into an underground aquifer.

. . .

Anthrax Outbreak Worries Republic Of Georgia

Forty-two people in Georgia's capital Tbilisi have been hospitalized after being infected with the anthrax bacteria over the last month, the Health Ministry in the former

Soviet republic said Wednesday. The government doesn't have enough vaccine to fully protect the population, and the potentially deadly disease could spread further, Health Ministry spokesman Dzhoni Dzhnanashiya said. Many people have stopped buying beef in Tbilisi markets because the disease was detected among cattle in several Georgian regions, Dzhnanashiya said.

. . .

Texas Experiences First Dengue Outbreak In Almost 20 Years

The biggest outbreak of "dengue fever" to hit south Texas in almost 20 years has sickened more than a dozen people in the border town of Laredo. Epidemiologists there have confirmed 14 cases of the viral illness, which is spread by mosquitoes and nicknamed "breakbone fever." Over 100 cases have been identified just across the Mexican border and many more are suspected.

Dengue Fever Outbreak In Mexico Spreads North

AP -- "Scores of new cases of dengue fever in northern Mexico indicate the disease is spreading, but health officials in the United States say there's little danger of the outbreak moving north into Texas. At least 5,500 people have been diagnosed with the painful, mosquito-borne disease this month alone in Mexico's Nuevo Leon state. Of those, about 150 had the sometimes-fatal form known as hemorrhagic dengue. Another 500 cases have been reported in the neighboring state of Tamaulipas, which runs along the border from Nuevo Laredo to the Gulf of Mexico. Five people have died in Nuevo Leon and two in Tamaulipas. On Friday, the government news agency Notimex quoted health officials in northern Coahuila state as saying they had confirmed 77 cases there, including one case of hemorrhagic dengue. Coahuila's assistant director of health services, Marco Antonio Ruiz, was quoted as saying that another 461 cases are being analyzed. Dengue is characterized by headaches, rashes, cramps and severe muscle and bone pains. It usually last about two weeks after infection, and treatment is mostly to relieve symptoms. The hemorrhagic variety is accompanied by internal bleeding and can be fatal. Texas has recorded 22 dengue cases since July 1 . . ."

----- End Of Quotes -----

As we continue our series in part ten, we will look at some newly-discovered pathogens, the threat of bio-terrorism, that which a man sows, a worldwide low sperm count and a possible solution, and my time in Mexico City and air and water pollution. We will conclude part ten by turning our attention to yet another form of pollution; a hideous, internal form of pollution which kills about four million people worldwide every single year. This will include an expose on the power and deceitful tactics of the tobacco industry. I trust that you will join me.

Fulfilled Prophecy : The Beginning Of Sorrows : Part 10

Newly-Discovered Pathogens, Threat Of Bio-Terrorism, Reap What We Sow, Worldwide Low Sperm Count, Possible Solution, My Time In Mexico City, Air And Water Pollution, Power Of Tobacco Industry, Tar And Nicotine: Unseen Addictive Killers

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As if fighting against known diseases, or new super-strains of those diseases, weren't already enough of a challenge for modern science, consider the fact that various news agencies have also reported stories of viruses which are believed to be either completely new, or at least which have never been seen in the United States before. Consider the next several reports which were also released during the months of August and September of 1999:

----- Begin Quotes -----

Doctors Say 37 Now Sick In New York Virus Outbreak

Public health officials raised the number of reported cases to 37 on Sunday in New York's outbreak of a West Nile-like virus that is blamed for the deaths of four people. Two other deaths outside New York City -- one in suburban Westchester County and the other in Toronto -- are now blamed on the disease. In the Canadian case, a 75-year-old man died a few days after he visited the New York borough of Queens, Canadian officials say. The case has not been confirmed by U.S. officials.

. . .

Bird Virus Blamed For New York Encephalitis Death

Federal researchers now say a bird virus previously unseen in the Western Hemisphere caused at least one of three New York City deaths originally blamed on St. Louis encephalitis, health officials said Sunday. Researchers are reviewing three deaths and 15 illnesses that occurred in New York during the past month after the discovery in dead birds last week of a virus usually found only in Africa and Asia.

. . .

New Strain Of Encephalitis Identified In New York Birds

Health officials have identified a strain of encephalitis never before seen in the Western Hemisphere in several bird specimens found in the metropolitan New York area. The discovery of this new strain, known as the West Nile virus, has raised questions about whether 18 recently reported cases of encephalitis stem from the St. Louis variety of the virus or the new one.

. . .

Two More Encephalitis Cases Confirmed

NEW YORK (AP) -- As the city prepared to complete the first round of aerial and ground spraying to combat mosquito-borne encephalitis, two more cases of the potentially deadly disease were confirmed.

The latest cases, a 15-year-old boy who has been hospitalized and a 38-year-old woman who health officials say appears to have recovered, bring the total number of confirmed cases to 11. Three of those have died.

"Until now, the youngest person who had a confirmed case was

58 years old," said city Health Department director Neal Cohen. "Younger people, given stronger immune response, generally have milder forms of the illness."

The city is awaiting lab results for 65 other people who may have been infected with the St. Louis strain, including a 79-year-old woman who died Saturday in the Queens borough.

St. Louis encephalitis can cause seizure, paralysis and swelling of the brain that is sometimes fatal, especially to infants, the elderly and people with immune deficiency. Its symptoms include fever, headache and lethargy.

. . .

Potential New Deadly Virus Reported

The deaths of at least 34 young children in Malaysia may be due to a mystery virus which causes massive brain and heart collapse, say researchers. The children, aged five months to seven years old, died within just five months in Sarawak. . . The deaths were initially blamed on an outbreak of hand, foot and mouth disease. But all the children who died had a fever which rapidly progressed to heart and lung failure, suggesting both their brain and heart had been affected by the virus . . .

----- End Of Quotes -----

Fighting against all of these known and unknown diseases presents a major challenge to the world's medical community; particularly in light of the fact that the Earth's population has now reached six billion citizens, many of which live in crowded cities which provide the ideal environment for the rapid spread of plagues of epidemic proportions. However, the pathogenic nightmare does not end there. In recent years world governments have had to confront a new threat, which in reality, is the offspring of their own evil technology. Consider the following excerpts taken from a CNN special report on the twentieth century:

----- Begin Quote -----

Bioterrorism, Plagues Pose Threat

But some scientific circles are not as optimistic, especially when it comes to mankind's inevitable next brush with an epidemic -- including a possible man-made crisis.

A paper recently issued by the Center for Civilian Biodefense Studies at Johns Hopkins University warns that smallpox, "because of its high case-fatality rates and transmissibility, now represents one of the most serious bioterrorist threats to the civilian population."

"It is possible that smallpox virus fortifies the arsenals of terrorist groups or some nations," the British medical journal The Lancet notes in a May 8, 1999, editorial. "Some experts fear that the release of smallpox virus into the population, whether by mistake or intent, may be only a matter of time."

Live samples of smallpox are now known to exist in only two laboratories -- the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, and the Russian State Center for Research on Virology and Biotechnology in Koltsovo.

An international controversy has been brewing over whether those centers should destroy their stocks -- or hold on to the samples for future research. In May 1999, the World Health Organization voted to delay destruction until 2002 at the latest.

Dr. Donald A. Henderson, director at the Johns Hopkins center, also warns of future plagues by as-yet-undetermined biological threats.

"We are regularly detecting new viruses, new organisms," he says. "There's a constant process of mutation and change. Because of travel, people moving rapidly, penetrating areas they haven't been before, the large, huge cities people now live in -- there are all sorts of reasons for all sorts of diseases to emerge."

----- End Of Quote -----

Thus we see that while some evil governments of the world, like the United States of America, have introduced us to chemical and biological warfare, in the end, they may fall victim to the creations of their own hands. But then this should not really surprise us; for as the Apostle Paul wrote:

"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."
Galatians 6:7, KJV

While conducting my research for this series, I also came across the following interesting report which caught my eye. How ironic that in this current age of selfish and perverted sex, where men and women both resort to all kinds of birth control methods, from condoms, to diaphragms, to creams, to withdrawal, to the rhythm method, to abortion, etc., so that they can enjoy the feeling, but not have to pay the price of parenthood, in addition to AIDS and other STD's, or Sexually Transmitted Diseases, the Lord has also apparently seen fit to strike men with a low sperm count:

----- Begin Quote -----

Sperm Counts Dropping Dramatically

British scientists are set to carry out their biggest-ever study into male reproductive health -- including why sperm counts across the globe appear to be falling dramatically, researchers said Monday.

----- End Of Quote -----

While you may find this a bit difficult to believe, I recall reading quite a few years ago, that the physical source of the above-described problem, may actually be related to what kind of briefs a man wears. According to biologists, it is because of the fact that a man's testicles hang outside of his body, which results in a slightly lower temperature of the same, that they are a more conducive environment for the production of the male gamete, or sperm. If we consider the fact that it has only been in the past fifty years or so, that "Fruit-Of-The-Loom" type briefs have replaced what are known in the United States as loose-fitting "boxer shorts", and that this new type of more tightly-fitting briefs holds a man's testicles closer to his body, thus slightly raising

their temperature, it should come as no surprise then that the sperm count appears to be dropping.

If you are a couple who has been desperately trying to have a child, but has thus far been unsuccessful at doing so, may I suggest that the man switches to "boxer shorts" for a few months, in order to see if your results improve. You never know; you just might be pleasantly surprised; but please give it some time and a fair chance, so that the man's sperm count will rise again first.

While I have thus far discussed diseases which have a direct effect on the human body from the inside, these are not the only ways in which the Lord appears to be chastising this foolish and rebellious world, which has chosen to either ignore His existence altogether, or at least to defy both the Natural Laws and the Spiritual Laws which He has laid down in His Word. There are other external, non-corporal plagues which are having an equally detrimental effect on the health of the world's populace. These plagues, some of which are the result of man's own wasteful and destructive lifestyle, include such things as air and water pollution.

[Images Removed From Text Version]

Even though it has been over two decades since I last lived there, I can still remember the terrible air pollution which plagues Mexico City. In the central district known as the Zocalo, the degree of pollution was such at that time, that just a few minutes walking on the street next to the snarled traffic would cause one's eyes to really burn, and force him to cover his nose and mouth. I can only imagine how much further the situation has deteriorated since that time, as that giant metropolis has continued to grow and to develop, due to the steady influx of poor "campesinos" from the rural areas, who flock to the capital in droves seeking financial opportunity; many of whom never find it, and end up sitting on blankets on city street corners selling red, sugar-coated peanuts called "garrapiñados" and other treats and trinkets, to passers-by.

[Images Removed From Text Version]

The steady flow of news reports concerning air and water pollution which have filled the airwaves, as well as the pages of the world press during the past four decades are indeed many. To even begin to thoroughly discuss this topic would require a lot of time and space; and would undoubtedly overburden you, the reader. That being the case, allow me to share with you just a few of these reports which help to emphasize the seriousness of this deadly menace:

----- Begin Quotes -----

Report: More Than Half The World's Rivers In Serious Trouble

More than half the world's major rivers are going dry or are polluted, a panel studying global water problems reports. The fouling of the waterways and surrounding river basins contributed to the total of 25 million environmental refugees last year, for the first time exceeding the world's 21 million war-related refugees, said the World Commission on Water for the 21st Century.

. . .

Mysterious Pollution Turns Surfing Mecca Into Ghost Town

The usual atmosphere at Huntington Beach has been crashed by thousands of gallons of bacteria. For nearly eight weeks, health officials have closed section after section of the 8-mile beach trying to find the source of a sewage leak. The problem surfaced in late June when sanitation officials found unhealthy levels of bacteria, including extremely high levels of enterococcus -- known to cause gastrointestinal and respiratory infections. It now threatens Bolsa Chica State Beach to the north.

. . .

EPA Proposes Regulation Of Radon In Water

The Environmental Protection Agency proposed Tuesday for the first time to regulate the amount of radon in drinking water, urging a strategy that would allow less stringent controls on water supplies if states take aggressive action to curtail radon in indoor air. Radon, a naturally occurring gas that comes from soil, has been linked to thousands of cases of lung cancer and is second only to smoking in causing lung cancer.

[Images Removed From Text Version]

Air Pollution Kills, But Deaths Can Be Prevented

Eight thousand people a day die from illnesses caused by air pollution but some simple preventative steps and increased monitoring could lessen the toll, according to a recently released report by Australia's Commonwealth Science Council. Of the 3 million annual deaths, 2.8 million are from indoor air pollution. Ninety percent of the deaths occur in developing countries, according to World Health Organization estimates.

. . .

Smog Sends 53,000 To Hospital Each Summer - Report

Smog sends 53,000 people to the hospital each summer and triggers more than 6 million asthma attacks in the eastern United States, according to estimates released on Tuesday by clean air activists. Smog created in the summer is called ground-level ozone, the main culprit in what environmentalists believe is a public health crisis generated by coal-fired power plants.

----- End Of Quotes -----

[Images Removed From Text Version]

Directly related to air pollution is another deadly form of pollution which ultimately results in the death of some four million people worldwide annually; and the death toll is on the rise. This particular kind of pollution is extremely subtle; and quite often it remains invisible until it is too late to reverse its deadly effects. What is so tragic about this form of pollution, is that not only could it be easily prevented, but it could be completely eradicated, if more people would take control of their own wills, bodies, and lives, and force the American government, as well as other governments of the world, to close down the irresponsible, greedy companies which fuel this form of pollution. I am

referring to none other than the tobacco industry. Sadly, the American tobacco industry possesses a lot of money; and it has an extremely powerful lobby in Washington, D.C. As proof of this, consider the following report which was issued in October of 1998 by the Common Dreams News Wire online service:

----- Begin Quote -----

Big Tobacco Lobbying Costs \$81,000 Per Member of Congress in First Half of 1998; Industry Blows Away Previous Record

WASHINGTON - October 29 - Big Tobacco fired up an intense lobbying campaign in the first half of 1998, spending more than \$43 million on high-priced, insider lobbyists -- an astonishing 174 percent increase from the same period in 1997, according to a Public Citizen report released today.

"Big Tobacco paid lobbyists unprecedented amounts to keep crucial public health legislation from being passed," said Public Citizen President Joan Claybrook. "This money helped buy early deaths for thousands of teen smokers and will leave an enduring stain on our society as American families struggle with tobacco-related fatalities and injuries well into the next century."

The \$43.3 million in lobbying expenses reported by six tobacco companies and three industry trade groups breaks all previous spending records set by the tobacco industry, according to the report, *Blowing Smoke*, an analysis based on lobbying disclosures for the first half of the year.

"This remarkable attempt to buy influence through lobbying, while considerable, reveals only a fraction of the money Big Tobacco spent last year to thwart tobacco control legislation," Claybrook said. "The tobacco companies spent millions on grassroots campaign expenditures that are not required to be reported. They spent at least \$40 million for TV and other advertising, and another \$5.6 million has been spent so far in this election cycle to influence the outcome of federal elections through soft money and PAC contributions. They spare no expense when it comes to protecting their profits, even at the cost of millions of lives."

Of the \$5.6 million in soft money and PAC contributions, \$4.3 million -- 77 percent -- went to Republicans, and \$1.3 million -- 23 percent -- to Democrats.

While the tobacco companies were able to block passage of a strong, pro-health tobacco control bill, they were unsuccessful in their efforts to pass a sweetheart settlement deal that would have let them off the hook for the death and disease caused by their products and for decades of lying about the dangers of tobacco. The industry sought broad protections from legal liability and once those protections were stripped from the tobacco bill, the industry began to withdraw its support for the legislation.

In the first six months of the year, according to the report:

* Big Tobacco's \$43.3 million in lobbying expenditures represents a 174 percent increase over the first half of 1997 and a 22 percent increase over the \$35.5 million spent in all of 1997. It represents a total industry expenditure

averaging \$81,000 per member of Congress.

* Tobacco companies besieged the Capitol with an army of 192 lobbyists -- one for every three members of Congress. These lobbyists included at least seven former senators and representatives and at least 18 ex-congressional staff members. Also included were big-name politicians, including former Texas Gov. Ann Richards and former Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, both Democrats, as well as former executive branch members and Haley Barbour, formerly head of the Republican National Committee.

* Brown and Williamson was the top spender, reporting \$18.2 million in expenditures in the first six months -- a whopping 1,000 percent increase over the previous year's \$1.7 million in spending. Philip Morris more than doubled its lobbying expenses from the prior year, reporting \$14.4 million in expenditures, compared with \$7 million the year before.

----- End Of Quote -----

To emphasize how serious the tobacco problem really is on a worldwide scale, consider the following alarming information which can be found at the World Health Organization, (WHO), web site:

----- Begin Quotes -----

About Tobacco and Treatment

* Tobacco use is widespread. At the beginning of this decade at least one-third of the global adult population, or 1.1 billion people, used tobacco. Although overall tobacco use is decreased in many developed countries, it increased in most developing countries. An estimated 48% of men and 7% of women in developing countries smoked; in industrialized countries, 42% of men and 24% of women smoked, representing a marked increase among women. Tobacco use is a pediatric epidemic, as well. Most tobacco use starts during childhood and adolescence.

* Tobacco kills. A long-term tobacco user has a 50% chance of dying prematurely from tobacco-caused disease. Each year, tobacco causes some 4 million premature deaths, with 1 million of these occurring in countries that can least afford the health-care burden. This epidemic is predicted to kill 250 million children and adolescents who are alive today, a third of whom live in developing countries. By the year 2030, tobacco likely will be the world's leading cause of death and disability, killing more than 10 million people annually and claiming more lives than HIV, tuberculosis, maternal mortality, motor vehicle accidents, suicide, and homicide combined.

----- End Of Quotes -----

Despite the fact that humanity in general is more than aware of the health hazards related to inhaling cigarette smoke, and using other tobacco-related products, in confirmation of the previous WHO report, a November 1999 report from CNN also indicates that this global evil is on the rise, and that millions of foolish people continue to cut their lives short needlessly:

----- Begin Quote -----

More People Smoking Despite Known Health Risks

(CNN) -- Thursday is the American Cancer Society's "Great American Smoke Out," a day smokers around the country are encouraged to kick the habit. Despite millions of dollars in state spending for anti-smoking campaigns, more adults and teens are smoking now than in the early 1990s.

In 1991, 28 percent of high school age teen-agers said they had smoked in the past month. By 1997, the most recent figures available, that number jumped to 36 percent. And young adults aren't doing much better. Smoking among 18 to 24 year-olds has increased from 25 percent in 1990 to 29 percent in 1997

----- End Of Quote -----

I am truly amazed by the way so many foolish people have been duped and enticed into smoking and chewing their lethal products, and thus gradually filling their lungs with tar, and encouraging the growth of cancerous cells, through silly advertising campaigns, which have sported such "heroes" of the industry as the macho Marlboro Man, graceful Virginia Slim and cool Joe Camel. It would be ludicrous, if it wasn't so sad. These people, particularly the young people, need to wake up, and stop allowing themselves to be affected by peer pressure, and stupid television and magazine ads. As the Apostle Paul tells us, we are to respect and care for our bodies, and not abuse them, because they are the temples of God's Spirit:

"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."
1 Corinthians 6:19-20, KJV

"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."
1 Corinthians 10:31, KJV

Ironically, the world's largest tobacco company, which is comprised of Philip Morris U.S.A. and Philip Morris International, is now publicly admitting that cigarette smoking is not safe. In October of 1999, CNN reported the following story:

----- Begin Quote -----

Philip Morris Admits Health Hazards Of Smoking

Philip Morris, the world's biggest tobacco company, has admitted publicly that tobacco isn't safe, and is trying to remake its image with a \$100 million advertising campaign. "For too long we have let others define who we are," Steven Parrish, senior vice president for corporate affairs for Philip Morris, said. The company has launched a corporate Web site, stating in one section that "there is no 'safe' cigarette."

----- End Of Quote -----

After Philip Morris executives have spent decades grossly enriching themselves, and indirectly killing untold millions of people through their subtle marketing campaigns, which

draw both young and old into their nicotine snares, they now have the audacity to come forth with this..ahem..remarkable confession; but is this sudden "about face" really all that remarkable? Don't be so easily deceived by such trickery! They are not going to make such a statement, unless they already know that it is going to have a very minimal effect on their overall worldwide profits.

While on the surface, this admission may at first appear to be a responsible move by the tobacco giant, if we consider the fact that the vast majority of cigarette smokers now live outside of the United States of America in non-English speaking countries, and that the vast majority of them will most likely never even become aware of this admission by Philip Morris, then it is easy to see that this so-called "confession" will have very little effect on curbing tobacco sales worldwide; which of course means that company profits will not be significantly affected. That being the case, it seems that this admission of guilt is nothing more than a well-calculated, politically-correct, strategical move in order to reduce the public pressure on its American-based companies, where environmental and health issues often fill the daily news.

To emphasize how minimal the economic loss will be from their statement, consider the fact that according to their web site, Philip Morris now employs 144,000 people in 150 countries worldwide. They also boast of having 180 markets worldwide in which they sell their tobacco products. In addition to this, they claim that "In 1998 one out of every six cigarettes sold worldwide was a Philip Morris brand". In plain English, even if they were to lose every single one of their American customers due to their admission, it amounts to very little. So as you can see, Philip Morris can afford to appease the American public by presenting this new image of being a "repentant", responsible, caring tobacco company. Many Americans are naive enough to swallow such hogwash, because they have been swallowing government and commercial propaganda for years.

To conclude this section on the mortal dangers of cigarette smoking, and to further substantiate my claim regarding how the United States of America is not Philip Morris' primary market, allow me to share some additional information with you which you will find rather alarming. Please carefully note that the majority of cigarette smokers are found in Europe and Asia, and that only a mere ten per cent live in the United States of America according to this 1993 report:

----- Begin Quotes -----

Human Resources Development and Operations Policy
HRO Dissemination Notes
Number 1, February, 1993

Added to all the most fearsome plagues (the Black Death, smallpox, malaria, and tuberculosis), a man-made plague--diseases resulting from the smoking, chewing and snuffing of tobacco--is now the leading scourge of the twentieth century. But unlike most microbial plagues, damage to the human body from cigarettes progresses slowly. Approximately five trillion cigarettes are produced each year, or 1,000 cigarettes for each man, woman, and child on earth. Worldwide, consumption is increasing about 2% per year, with the greatest rise occurring in the developing countries and eastern Europe. China is the world's leading

consumer of cigarettes (31%), followed by the United States (10%), Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) (7%), and Japan (6%). Fifty-two percent of cigarettes are consumed in Asia.

Hazards of Tobacco

Tobacco is highly addictive: studies of people who have smoked for many years show grossly higher death rates among smokers than among non-smokers. Most of this excess mortality is caused by tobacco. Overall, more than one-third of all regular cigarette smokers, many of these still in middle age, will be killed by the habit. Smokers lose an average of 20-25 years of non-smoker life expectancy. Tobacco also causes excess morbidity. Up to 14% of all preterm deliveries in the U.S. may be attributable to maternal smoking. Children whose parents smoke experience more respiratory symptoms and have an increased frequency of bronchitis and pneumonia.

Magnitude of the Hazard

The annual global tobacco death toll is already about three million--about 1 million in developing countries-- and will rise to more than ten million by the 2020s according to current trends. Most of this increase will occur in developing countries. Of all the people aged under 20 alive today in China, 50 million will die prematurely from tobacco. For men, the epidemic of premature death from tobacco has already become substantial in all developed countries. The death rates in middle-aged men from all causes are especially high in eastern Europe, one major reason for this being tobacco.

----- End Of Quotes -----

As we continue our series in part eleven, we will take a look at the scourge of deadly famines which have struck many different parts of the world, particularly the continent of Africa, as well as the many droughts which have occurred in recent years, from Africa to the Middle East to the United States of America to South America and elsewhere. I trust that you will join me.

Fulfilled Prophecy : The Beginning Of Sorrows : Part 11

Worldwide Plague Of Killer Famines, Worldwide Droughts

[Images Removed From Text Version]

Thus far in this series, we have discussed three of the four signs which constitute the 'Beginning of Sorrows' mentioned by the Lord in part of His Endtime sermon found in the twenty-fourth chapter of the Gospel of Matthew. As you may recall, these four signs are wars, famines, pestilences and earthquakes. Here again are those verses in order to refresh your memory:

"For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows."

Matthew 24:7-8, KJV

In confirmation of Jesus' words, let us now take a look at the fourth sign mentioned by the Lord; that is, famines; also referred to as "dearths" in the Bible. During the years 1845-1848, it is claimed that more than one million people died in Ireland due to starvation and disease which resulted from the Potato Famine. During Mao Zedong's "Great Leap Forward", it is also said that some twenty million Chinese citizens perished due to famine, as a result of Mao's misguided priorities. Following is a news clip from CNN's special report on the Cold War:

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In 1958, Mao had thought up a new policy -- the Great Leap Forward -- a grandiose plan to transform China into a rich world power. Mao's method was a more extreme version of Stalin's brutal collectivization of the 1930s. People were told to produce steel in backyard furnaces. Crops were left to rot. Scientific knowledge and common sense were ignored. No one dared to tell the truth for fear of arrest -- or worse. Peasants' food was taken from them to make up bogus quotas. The result was one of the worst man-made disasters in history. More than 30 million people starved to death.

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In our modern day, despite man's scientific achievements and advanced technology, such as his ability to "play God" by seeding the clouds of heaven in order to produce rain; and his extensive use of modern irrigation systems and farming techniques, which includes the use of a wide variety of fertilizers and dangerous pesticides, and now even genetic engineering, there are still many countries found throughout the world, where literally millions of people suffer from malnutrition, and die of starvation each year. Consider the following data which I obtained from the "Bread For the World" web site:

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More than 800 million people-about one-fifth of the population of the world's developing nations-are malnourished, and 200 million of them are children. (United Nations Development Program)

In developing countries, one child in 10 dies before his fifth birthday. The majority of these deaths are hunger-related, totaling 6 million deaths every year. (UNICEF)

The cost of providing basic health care and nutrition for all people in developing countries could be achieved by spending an additional \$13 billion annually, which is \$4 billion less than what Americans and Europeans spend on pet food. (United Nations Development Program)

Eighty-seven developing countries do not produce enough food for their people and cannot afford to import the rest. (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations)

Poor households in developing countries typically spend half their income on food. (United Nations Development Program)

The richest fifth of the world's people consumes 86 percent of all goods and services while the poorest fifth consumes

just 1.3 percent. (United Nations Human Development Report)

Some 1.3 billion people don't have access to safe drinking water. (United Nations Development Program)

The three richest people in the world have assets that exceed the combined gross domestic product of the 48 least developed countries. (United Nations Human Development Report)

The world's 225 richest individuals, of whom 60 are Americans with total assets of \$311 billion, have a combined wealth of over \$1 trillion-equal to the annual income of the poorest 47 percent of the entire world's population. (United Nations Human Development Report)

Some 1.3 billion people-one third of the population of the developing world-live on less than a dollar a day. (United Nations Development Program)

----- End Of Quote -----

As the previous data reveals, the famines and the poverty continue at unprecedented levels. Consider the following news reports which I have collected from various news sources on the World Wide Web:

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Agence France-Press -- About 790 million people in the world suffer from chronic malnutrition, said a report issued Thursday in London by the U.N. World Food Program. Those numbers were attributed to war and natural disasters. The report said that the number of malnourished people had declined by roughly 8 million a year during the period between 1990-1992 and 1995-1997. It based its findings on a minimum requirement for caloric intake, which varied according to the country under study. But it also said that the decline in the number of malnourished of roughly 40 million people over the past five years was 'by far not enough to ensure that the (1996) World Food Summit target is met.' At that summit, 186 countries committed themselves to halving the number of malnourished people in the world by 2015, noted Hartwig de Haen, who directed the study by United Nations statisticians. In order to reach that target, food was needed for 20 million more people each year, or 2.5 times the actual increase, the report said. The WFP noted that while malnutrition had declined by about 100 million people in 37 countries, it increased by 60 million in others, which it called a 'worrying divergence.'

. . .

Report: 3.5 Million North Koreans Believed Dead From Famine

"Four years of famine in North Korea have eased after killing up to 3.5 million people, but the situation could worsen if outside aid is cut off, a South Korean relief group said Monday. Good Friends, a private Buddhist aid group, made the death estimate on the basis of interviews with 2,700 North Korean refugees living in China. 'Mass deaths in North Korea have stopped, but malnutrition remains at the danger level,' Rev. Pumnyum, head of the group, said at a news conference . . ."

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Facing Mass Starvation, North Korea Pleads For Help

CNN -- North Korea abandoned its political isolation in 1997 and asked the nations of the world to help combat its severe food shortage.

The communist nation said it would be willing to press ahead with peace talks in exchange for help fighting widespread starvation and malnourishment.

North Korea blamed the food shortages on a severe drought and massive floods.

But some observers -- pointing to a broad economic slowdown and a shortage of electricity from the country's primary power source, hydroelectric dams -- said government mismanagement was at fault.

Video from one United Nations fact-finding mission showed 11-year-old children who looked like they were 6, and 6-year-olds who looked 3. One woman said her family had not had meat since August 1995.

In August, aid officials estimated the nation's 24 million people were living off an average of 150 grams of food per day -- about 12 spoonfuls. Some people turned to roots, weeds and tree bark to try to survive.

. . .

Sudan Faces Another Season Of Crisis, Starvation

NAIROBI, Kenya (CNN) -- Having faced famine, floods and fighting this year, millions in southern Sudan could experience more misfortune in 1999, unless government and rebel forces continue a temporary cease-fire, U.N. officials said Tuesday.

A six-month partial cease-fire and humanitarian aid in 1998 helped alleviate the suffering of 4 million Sudanese in the rebel-controlled south, recovering first from blistering drought then record floods.

Since 1983 the civil conflict for control of southern Sudan has claimed an estimated 1.5 million to 1.9 million lives, many from war-related famine. Millions more have fled their homes and farms. Untended crops have been looted or destroyed, leaving people without food.

. . .

1 Million People Face Famine In Sudan, Ethiopia

BAHR EL GHAZAL PROVINCE, Sudan (CNN) -- Drought and war have combined to create a famine disaster in eastern Africa that is affecting more than a million people in parts of Sudan and neighboring Ethiopia.

In southern Sudan, relief workers estimate that more than 250,000 people may be starving. Though a drought has aggravated the problems, the primary reason for the famine is an ongoing civil war between the Muslim Arab government in the north and a rebel group seeking autonomy for the Christian and black African south.

"This is purely a man-made disaster," said Dan Effie of Norwegian People's Aid, a relief group working in Sudan.

In Ethiopia, the weather is responsible for a famine that U.N. World Food Program officials say is affecting perhaps 800,000 people in the eastern and central parts of the country.

. . .

Famine Pushes Somalis To Brink Of Disaster

MOGADISHU, Somalia (CNN) -- Flood and drought and ruined crops have sent thousands of Somalis on a desperate trek, searching for food, relief workers report.

Somali faction leader Ali Mahdi Mohamed said on Saturday the situation in southern Somalia was "disastrous."

"Thousands of Somalis are on the brink of starvation after a series of floods and drought ruined crops in the southern (crop growing) Juba region," Ali Mahdi said in a statement.

"People will die if there is no relief aid," said World Food Program monitor Muhiedin Moallim.

Somalia has been without a government since 1991 when forces loyal to Mohamed Farah Aided and Ali Mahdi combined to oust dictator Mohamed Siad Barre -- and then turned on each other in clan-based bloodletting.

Famine killed as many as 300,000 people after the 1991 crisis. Somalia has suffered a series of failed harvests since and many of its people have lived on U.N. handouts.

In this western Somalia town, events confirmed fighting and natural disasters had robbed people of food. Militia loyal to Hussein Aided have just been ousted by the local Rahanwein Resistance Army (RRA) in factional fighting. The cost: dozens of lives lost and hundreds of people on the run.

In the village of Tiyeglow, 90 km (56 miles) from Hoddur, chaos greeted the first WFP food consignment in three months. Menacing local militia, automatic rifles at the ready, kept hundreds of the hungry jostling for a "better" place on the queue in line.

More than 40,000 people in Tiyeglow are at risk of starvation, said Moallim.

He said: "This is an emergency. The area of Bay and Bakool experienced crop failure for the last three years so the situation looks bad."

WFP says the Somalis were moving en masse to coastal areas and to the southern border with Kenya. It estimates that 700,000 Somalis are facing imminent food shortages, with some 300,000 in central Somalia most at risk.

. . .

Famine Warning: Tanzania And Somalia

CNN -- Lack of seasonal rain in East Africa severely threatens staple food crops in several countries, triggering

an alarm of impending famine in the region.

The U.S. Agency for International Development described the region's weather as the worst in 20 years, with the La Niña ocean cooling in the Pacific causing rainfall to be as low as 50 percent below normal in some countries. The failure of the short rains (October-December) in many parts of Tanzania, and a likely delay of the long rains (April-June), have put up to 300,000 people in the country at great risk of starvation. During the past month in Somalia, at least six people died on average each day of malnutrition.

. . .

Kenya Warns Of Famine After Long Drought

NAIROBI, Kenya (Reuters) -- Hundreds of thousands of Kenyans are severely short of food because of a long drought and at least five have starved to death, government officials said Friday.

The government has declared a state of "alarm" in 18 districts after two consecutive rainy seasons failed.

Local officials say 40 percent of the population face starvation if rains due in the next month also fail.

In its recent history Kenya has never suffered famine on the scale experienced by its conflict-torn neighbors Sudan, Ethiopia and Somalia.

But hundreds died and thousands of head of livestock were lost in a severe drought in 1992/93, the worst for 50 years.

. . .

Famine Sweeps Parched Northeastern Brazil

AFOGADOS DA INGAZEIRA, Brazil (AP) -- The corn withered long ago when Sebastiao da Silva's parched fields at last produced some food: a rodent.

Da Silva held up the fur-covered preta, an animal the size of a small rabbit, and a grin cracked his face, baked to leather by years of sun.

"At least tonight, my family will have something to eat," he said.

Here in the country's vast northeastern outback -- which has been without rain for six months -- there isn't much else to consume. An estimated 10 million people are at risk of going hungry -- and some have turned to looting government warehouses.

Droughts occur here every few years, but this year's has been exacerbated by El Niño, a phenomenon that affects weather patterns, creating dryness in some areas and heavier-than-normal rain in others.

Cattle carcasses dot the dusty scrubland near Afogados Da Ingazeira, a town 1,200 miles (1,900 kilometers) northeast of Rio de Janeiro. Officials say 60 percent of Pernambuco state, where the town is located, is without water.

Desperate families try to stave off starvation by eating

cacti -- and by looting. Last month, 700 men, women and children raided a government warehouse, carrying off almost 13 tons (12 metric tons) of rice, beans, flour, manioc meal, corn and pasta.

Severino Leite hangs on, relying on credit from a local store to feed his wife and six children. He already owes \$440 and dreads the day when his credit is cut.

"We each have one plate of beans a day and a glass of water at night," he said. "Then me and my family will be in God's hands. I don't like the idea, but who knows if I'll be forced to loot?"

----- End Of Quotes -----

Without a doubt, we have all seen haunting pictures on the evening news, or perhaps in newspapers and magazines, where young children from some of the aforementioned countries are shown with sad, sunken eyes, and their skin tightly clinging to their protruding bones. It is indeed a heart-wrenching sight to behold. How can such things still occur in our modern times one may ask? As we have seen by the previous reports, on the surface, famine appears to be the result of prolonged droughts which result in crop failures, as well as the evil fruit of man's inhumanity to his fellow man through his greedy wars, which have a dire effect on the economy, agriculture and society of the nations involved.

As you read the following news reports, particularly those regarding droughts in the United States of America, please take note of the fact that the general unspoken attitude from the American President on down, seems to be "These are all just natural disasters. It has nothing to do with God. We just don't understand why all of these things, [droughts, heat waves, floods], are happening to us at one time. It's very unusual." How much it reminds me of similar remarks made by the American President when he was dismayed by the teenage shootings in the American Public School System. Some people are so spiritually blind, that they just don't have a clue as to what is going on; or else they are simply too proud, or too politically-correct to want to speak the truth. What is rather ironic about this attitude, is that droughts, floods and hurricanes are referred to as "Acts of God" when one is dealing with insurance policies, etc. In other words, they say in their documents that these things are Acts of God, but some of them don't really believe it in their hearts. If they did, they would repent of their sins and get right with God:

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Arabic News -- The representative of the international Food and Agriculture Organization in Iraq, Amir Khalil, has said that the country, which suffers from its worst drought in this century, will face a catastrophe unless the situation is improved next year. In press statements he made in Baghdad, Khalil added, 'If there will be a new wave of drought next year, there will be a real catastrophe and then emergency action should be taken.' Khalil added that the absence of resources and necessary equipment in Iraq obstructs alleviation of the drought crisis, saying that sums allotted to help in this regard in the context of the UN food-for-oil program are hardly enough just to halt the deterioration of the situation but give no fundamental treatment. Khalil added that Iraq had allotted a sum of US

\$500 - 600 million annually to be spent on irrigation projects and other projects in the areas of agriculture before the imposition of the current sanctions, noting that this sum has been greatly decreased.

. . .

Pacific Drought Blamed on El Niño

Disaster Alert -- Drought conditions attributed to El Niño are blamed for 47 deaths in Papua New Guinea and increasing crop damage and livestock losses in New Zealand, Indonesia and Australia. The prime minister of Papua New Guinea says 700,000 residents of the island nation have been affected by weather conditions.

"We have to sit down and really have a critical look at it," he said on Wednesday in an interview with the Post-Courier. It's the worst drought the country has faced in 50 years. The drought and frosts have dried up vegetable gardens and farming operations and depleted rivers that are the lifeblood for gold and copper mines, the largest source of the country's revenue.

. . .

El Niño Drought Plagues Papua New Guinea

Disaster Alert -- The following information is from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in Geneva, Switzerland.

El Niño is robbing Papua New Guinea of rain vital for the growing season, causing extreme heat and drought, and generating crop-killing frosts in the local mountains. As a result, many people heavily dependent on their island's agriculture for food and cash crops have watched vegetable gardens dry and wither.

Foods such as the traditional sweet potato, or kaukau, have been fewer and smaller because of unusual waves of highland frost. Root vegetables have shriveled and the normally resilient shoots have died off.

Rivers and streams in many parts of the island are drying up or have evaporated completely, causing water shortages and serious health problems. Thousands of people in the region are being forced to use limited water sources for all their needs, including washing, cooking, drinking and sanitation.

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Belgium In Severe Drought; No Relief In Sight

BRUSSELS, Belgium (CNN) -- Belgium is suffering one of the longest droughts on record, and there is no quick relief in sight, according to the Royal Meteorological Institute. "Since July 1995 we have an accumulated rainfall deficit of 255 liters per square meter (10 inches)," statistician Marc Vandiepenbeek said.

"Over the period we have had 1,123 liters per square meter (44.2 inches) against the 1,378 liters (54.2 inches) we would normally have expected," he added.

Last August Belgium suffered major flooding as cloudburst

followed cloudburst to make the month the wettest since 1833.

"But much of that simply evaporated, more was absorbed by plants and the rest went into the rivers," Vandiepenbeek said. "The ground itself got little benefit."

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Drought Halts Some Traffic On The River Thames

LONDON (CNN) -- Low water is hindering some boat traffic on the historic River Thames, as Britain suffers its worst drought in more than two centuries.

At low tide, the river is so shallow in places that people can wade across it, and flows are only about one-third of what is needed for boat traffic. Tourism cruises from Westminster to Henry VIII's palace at Hampton Court are being canceled because the boats can't navigate.

January in London was the driest since 1779. While rainfall was above normal in February, March's total was only about a third as much as usual. Since last June, London -- famous for gray skies and rain -- has been drier than Istanbul or Madrid.

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CNN -- AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND: Drought And Bush Fires.

Australia already has seen an erratic cycle of rain and drought in 1997. Farmers, forewarned that El Niño could cause a drought, sold off cattle and altered planting plans to minimize their losses. Some three fourths of New South Wales already is facing a drought. Officials predict a \$700 million to \$1.4 billion shortfall in grain. In New Zealand, crop and livestock losses have exceeded \$130 million.

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Wheat Belt Drought Taking Heavy Toll

WELLINGTON, Kansas (CNN) -- Wheat prices are setting records at the Chicago Board of Trade as a drought in the Wheat Belt shrivels the crop. Some are calling the conditions -- in some of the most fertile wheat-producing land in the world -- the worst since the dust bowl days of the 1930s.

Farmers say they've never seen it so bad, bankers call the drought a disaster, and the people in Wellington, Kansas, the "Wheat Capital of the World," have watched the wheat crop shrink into nothing.

The federal government says half the crop across the United States is being lost to drought. Dry topsoil is being blown into ditches, and bugs ravage what crop is left. Many farmers have already plowed their plantings under. And the worst may be ahead.

The crop in much of the county already is a total loss. The plants needed moisture down at the roots weeks ago, but now the dirt at that level is dry. And now it's too late.

At a town meeting, Isaacs joined others to discuss what could be the worst U.S. wheat crop in history.

"There's going to be a larger impact than just our local economy," said Wellington's mayor, Stan Gilliland. "It's going to effect the whole world."

The drought has already affected the world. In the span of a decade, U.S. wheat stockpiles have gone from an all-time high to what is likely to be their lowest level since the 1940s, making it only a matter of time before prices start to rise on Main Street.

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El Niño Brings Drought To Colombia

BOGOTA, Colombia (CNN) -- El Niño has wreaked havoc around the globe, bringing rains, floods and other types of severe weather. But in Colombia, it has brought the worst drought in years, causing crop losses worth millions of dollars.

There are no official estimates of damage, but there have been more than 11,000 fires, and some 10,000 cattle have died just in the southern region of El Guila since the drought began.

Eduardo Cortez, a farmer all his life, doesn't remember a summer worse than this.

"Everybody from all parts of the country are complaining that summer is too strong, and in the hot areas, the coffee plants are drying up, the rice fields are drying up, they don't have water to water, all the crops are drying up," he said.

In Silvania, 60 kilometers (37 miles) south of Bogota, corn fields are drying up. While the lack of water is affecting the crops, the unusually hot temperatures are also bringing plagues of bugs.

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U.S. Drought Worsens

NEW YORK (CNN) -- The drought in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states is at a crisis point in some areas. Water restrictions have been imposed, fish are dying and crops are baking in the fields. Even Halloween is threatened.

From Virginia to New England and westward to the Ohio Valley, drought conditions that, in some areas, began years ago have led to restrictions on water use, increased the danger of fire and turned farmland into agriculture disaster areas.

Maryland received a foot less rain than normal from July 1998 through June 1999, the driest one-year period for the state since 1965-66.

Some 400 miles to the west, farmers in Ohio are feeling the same pain. "The beans aren't even knee-high yet, and they should be waist-high," lamented Ron Rockhold.

Fish are dying as water levels in lakes and streams dip dangerously low

In Pennsylvania and Virginia, millions of fish are dying in arid riverbeds and from excessive heat, which depletes oxygen levels in water. In a tributary of Virginia's Pocomoke River alone, about 1 million fish were found dead last week.

The drought also has taken its toll on large cities such as New York, where rainfall totals are 18 percent below normal. In Central Park, like much of the region, the bushes have wilted and the grass has turned to straw.

Drought alerts and warnings have been in place in New York state for the past two weeks, along with Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey and Virginia.

Michael Wyllie, meteorologist at the National Weather Service in Brookhaven, New York, said the drought on Long Island is one step below "extreme."

In addition to the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast, there are also drought conditions in other portions of the United States:

- * The water levels of all five Great Lakes are below normal and Lakes Michigan and Huron are 17 inches below last year's high.

- * Rainfall for the past 30 days has been 50 percent below normal from northern Nevada eastward into Idaho and northern Utah westward into northern California.

- * Alaska, which has had several months of below normal rainfall, is on increased alert for fires.

- * Hawaii has been suffering subnormal rainfalls since the beginning of the year.

----- End Of Quotes -----

As we continue this discussion in the next part of our series, I will be sharing additional news reports concerning droughts in various parts in the world. In addition, we will also discuss famines and droughts in the Bible, the true cause of war and other calamities, doubting God's Righteous Judgments, deliverance of the righteous, our dependence upon the Word, exposed by the Word, God turns away, and spiritual famines then and now. I trust that you will join me.

Fulfilled Prophecy : The Beginning Of Sorrows : Part 12

More News Reports On Droughts, Famines And Droughts In The Bible, True Cause Of War And Other Calamities, God's Hand Of Judgment, Doubting God's Righteous Judgments, Deliverance Of The Righteous, Our Dependence Upon The Word, Exposed By The Word, The Lord Turns Away, Spiritual Famines Then And Now

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Let us begin by sharing some additional news reports regarding the many droughts which have recently, and which continue to plague, different parts of the world, such as in Africa, the United States of America and the Middle East:

----- Begin Quotes -----

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- * Hawaii has been suffering subnormal rainfalls since the beginning of the year.

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'Normal' Rain Won't End Drought

WASHINGTON (CNN) -- The drought that's now the worst on record for farmers in four Northeastern states -- and one of the worst elsewhere in the country -- could continue through the winter and lead to higher food prices, U.S. officials said Friday.

"Throughout much of this country we have seen the worst drought since the Dust Bowl days (of the 1930s)," said Clinton.

"In Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey and Rhode Island, this is the worst drought for farmers ever recorded," the president said, revealing information compiled by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Four other states -- Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York and West Virginia -- have experienced their second-driest growing season, NOAA said.

In addition, April through July of this year ranks as the second driest such period on record for the Northeast as a whole. (The driest was in 1965.)

"Such a natural calamity can have devastating consequences, not only for farmers, but for small businesses and communities that depend upon a thriving agricultural sector," Clinton said.

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Researchers: Texas Drought Toll At Least \$2.1 Billion

DALLAS (CNN) -- The devastating drought that has parched Texas will leave a legacy of at least \$2.1 billion in estimated losses -- the largest agricultural hit since a seven-year dry spell during the 1950s, state researchers said Wednesday.

Cotton has suffered the most, with more than \$700 million in lost crops, officials said. Only 3.3 million acres of upland cotton are expected to be harvested this year -- 40 percent less than in 1997.

Droughts typically lead to higher produce prices, due to a shortage of crops, but not this year.

With cattle prices down, farmers cope with the worst drought in 40 years.

The cotton crop is being called one of the "worst . . . ever" in Texas.

"There have been other years when several weather-related factors contributed to losses, but this year only one -- the unrelenting, searing heat -- demolished the crop," said Carl Anderson, an economist at the extension service.

The drought has put more than 14,000 Texans out of work -- from migrant workers to farmers -- and job losses continue to climb.

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Searing Drought Forcing Farmers Into Extinction

CARTER COUNTY, Oklahoma (CNN) -- Thousands of farmers are on the brink of bankruptcy as months of searing heat combined with no rain has left watering holes dried up, fields baked and crops roasted.

Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman is scheduled to tour farm areas in Oklahoma and Texas Tuesday as they continue to suffer one of the worst droughts in recent memory.

In southern Oklahoma, where the earth is cracked from waves of blistering heat, ranchers are having a hard time remembering the last time it rained. Correspondent Charles Zewe reports from these hard-hit areas.

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U.S. Drought Aid For 6 States

WASHINGTON -- The federal government will provide emergency drought assistance to farmers in six Mid-Atlantic states, President Clinton announced Monday.

In West Virginia, alone, farmers are expected to have drought losses surpassing \$80 million. The state's agriculture secretary says he expects 10 percent of the West Virginia's 21,000 farmers to go out of business this year because of the drought.

Gov. Cecil Underwood has already declared an agriculture emergency for the state.

About 30 percent of the state's rural wells are dry and aquifers are being rapidly depleted, said Gus Douglass, West Virginia's agriculture secretary.

"We would need about 15 inches of rain to make up for the loss, but the damage is already done. We could easily lose a couple thousand farmers this year," Douglass said.

The drought started last fall, and officials are predicting it will become one of the worst in state history.

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Strange Brew:

Bringer Of Bounty And Famine, El Niño Keeps Experts Guessing

(CNN) -- The village of Pringluan nestles in the eroded hills along the southern coast of Central Java, one of a necklace of islands left without water as Indonesia's worst drought in 50 years takes hold. For villagers it brings back horrific memories of the last great drought in 1962, when they survived on boiled barks and rats. They say all they can do now is pray for rain. Across Indonesia, more than 250 people have died of famine or cholera blamed on lack of clean water.

----- End Of Quotes -----

If we examine the Holy Bible closely, we discover that, like the previous news reports, it too is literally filled with occurrences of droughts and famines in the ancient lands of the Middle East. Consider the following examples:

"And there was a famine in the land: and Abram went down into Egypt to sojourn there; for the famine was grievous in the land."

Genesis 12:10, KJV

"And there was a famine in the land, beside the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went unto Abimelech king of the Philistines unto Gerar."

Genesis 26:1, KJV

"And the seven years of dearth began to come, according as Joseph had said: and the dearth was in all lands; but in all the land of Egypt there was bread. And when all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried to Pharaoh for bread: and Pharaoh said unto all the Egyptians, Go unto Joseph; what he saith to you, do. And the famine was over all the face of the earth: And Joseph opened all the storehouses, and sold unto the Egyptians; and the famine waxed sore in the land of Egypt."

Genesis 41:54-56, KJV

"Now it came to pass in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehemjudah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he, and his wife, and his two sons."

Ruth 1:1, KJV

"And Elijah went to shew himself unto Ahab. And there was a sore famine in Samaria."

1 Kings 18:2, KJV

"And Elisha came again to Gilgal: and there was a dearth in the land; and the sons of the prophets were sitting before him: and he said unto his servant, Set on the great pot, and seethe pottage for the sons of the prophets."

2 Kings 4:38, KJV

"And there was a great famine in Samaria: and, behold, they besieged it, until an ass's head was sold for fourscore pieces of silver, and the fourth part of a cab of dove's dung for five pieces of silver."

2 Kings 6:25, KJV

"And on the ninth day of the fourth month the famine prevailed in the city, and there was no bread for the people of the land."

2 Kings 25:3, KJV

"And in the fourth month, in the ninth day of the month, the famine was sore in the city, so that there was no bread for the people of the land."

Jeremiah 52:6, KJV

"Our skin was black like an oven because of the terrible famine."

Lamentations 5:10, KJV

"But I tell you of a truth, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elias, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, when great famine was throughout all the land;"

Luke 4:25, KJV

"And there stood up one of them named Agabus, and signified by the Spirit that there should be great dearth throughout all the world: which came to pass in the days of Claudius

Caesar."

Acts 11:28, KJV

As I mentioned a moment ago, in his modern way of thinking, man views these disastrous events as natural occurrences which result from normal scientific principles; however, unlike men of science who have become hardened of heart and spiritually dull of hearing, if we Christians delve deeper into the Scriptures, we discover that the natural forces of the Earth are governed and controlled by the very Hand of the Lord Himself, and that He uses these forces to either chastise or bless the people of the Earth, including His very own children. The ancient Israelites were fully aware of this fact, as can be seen by the following verses taken from Moses' warning and King Solomon's prayer:

"Take heed to yourselves, that your heart be not deceived, and ye turn aside, and serve other gods, and worship them; And then the LORD'S wrath be kindled against you, and he shut up the heaven, that there be no rain, and that the land yield not her fruit; and lest ye perish quickly from off the good land which the LORD giveth you."

Deuteronomy 11:16-17, KJV

"When heaven is shut up, and there is no rain, because they have sinned against thee; if they pray toward this place, and confess thy name, and turn from their sin, when thou afflictest them: Then hear thou in heaven, and forgive the sin of thy servants, and of thy people Israel, that thou teach them the good way wherein they should walk, and give rain upon thy land, which thou hast given to thy people for an inheritance. If there be in the land famine, if there be pestilence, blasting, mildew, locust, or if there be caterpillar; if their enemy besiege them in the land of their cities; whatsoever plague, whatsoever sickness there be; What prayer and supplication soever be made by any man, or by all thy people Israel, which shall know every man the plague of his own heart, and spread forth his hands toward this house: Then hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place, and forgive, and do, and give to every man according to his ways, whose heart thou knowest; (for thou, even thou only, knowest the hearts of all the children of men;) That they may fear thee all the days that they live in the land which thou gavest unto our fathers."

1 Kings 8:35-40, KJV

The children of Israel knew perfectly well that when they were defeated by their enemies, or when drought, famine or other plagues consumed them and their land, it was because the Lord was sorely displeased with them, and He was dealing with them because of their sins. The Lord was intervening directly in their lives, by means of the forces which He had ordained since the foundation of the world. Having clarified this point, consider now the following examples where the Lord tells them directly by way of His holy Prophets, that He is indeed sending these things upon them:

"Then there was a famine in the days of David three years, year after year; and David enquired of the LORD. And the LORD answered, It is for Saul, and for his bloody house, because he slew the Gibeonites."

2 Samuel 21:1, KJV

"Then spake Elisha unto the woman, whose son he had restored to life, saying, Arise, and go thou and thine household, and sojourn wheresoever thou canst sojourn: for the LORD hath

called for a famine; and it shall also come upon the land seven years."

2 Kings 8:1, KJV

"Moreover he called for a famine upon the land: he brake the whole staff of bread."

Psalms 105:16, KJV

"Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, Behold, I will punish them: the young men shall die by the sword; their sons and their daughters shall die by famine:"

Jeremiah 11:22, KJV

"And I will send the sword, the famine, and the pestilence, among them, till they be consumed from off the land that I gave unto them and to their fathers."

Jeremiah 24:10, KJV

"And it shall come to pass, that the nation and kingdom which will not serve the same Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, and that will not put their neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon, that nation will I punish, saith the LORD, with the sword, and with the famine, and with the pestilence, until I have consumed them by his hand."

Jeremiah 27:8, KJV

"Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Behold, I will send upon them the sword, the famine, and the pestilence, and will make them like vile figs, that cannot be eaten, they are so evil. And I will persecute them with the sword, with the famine, and with the pestilence, and will deliver them to be removed to all the kingdoms of the earth, to be a curse, and an astonishment, and an hissing, and a reproach, among all the nations whither I have driven them:"

Jeremiah 29:17-18, KJV

"Then it shall come to pass, that the sword, which ye feared, shall overtake you there in the land of Egypt, and the famine, whereof ye were afraid, shall follow close after you there in Egypt; and there ye shall die. So shall it be with all the men that set their faces to go into Egypt to sojourn there; they shall die by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence: and none of them shall remain or escape from the evil that I will bring upon them."

Jeremiah 42:16-17, KJV

"A third part of thee shall die with the pestilence, and with famine shall they be consumed in the midst of thee: and a third part shall fall by the sword round about thee; and I will scatter a third part into all the winds, and I will draw out a sword after them."

Ezekiel 5:12, KJV

"When I shall send upon them the evil arrows of famine, which shall be for their destruction, and which I will send to destroy you: and I will increase the famine upon you, and will break your staff of bread:"

Ezekiel 5:16, KJV

"Thus saith the Lord GOD; Smite with thine hand, and stamp with thy foot, and say, Alas for all the evil abominations of the house of Israel! for they shall fall by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence. He that is far off shall die of the pestilence; and he that is near shall fall by the sword; and he that remaineth and is besieged shall die by the famine: thus will I accomplish my fury upon them."

Ezekiel 6:11-12, KJV

Having now read all of this Scriptural evidence, as honest Christians, the question we must each ask ourselves is this: Does God continue to deal with the people of the Earth as He did in times past, or are the calamities which are currently occurring throughout the world only the result of natural, scientific forces and causes, and man's inhumane treatment of his fellow man? Naturally, my question is rhetorical in nature, because the Scriptures once again provide a clear answer for us:

"For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed."
Malachi 3:6, KJV

"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever."
Hebrews 13:8, KJV

From these verses, we can safely conclude then, that God's Hand of Judgment does indeed remain active in the world today, just as it has for the past six thousand years; and that if different nations and peoples are now suffering from droughts, famines, wars, diseases and other plagues, then it must all be a part of the Lord's Divine Plan in some way. It seems to me that either the Lord is punishing such people due to their sins of unbelief and rebellion against Him by embracing false religions, even though many of them have now heard the true Gospel of Jesus Christ in some way, or else perhaps He is allowing the rich and the powerful to fill up their cup of iniquity by oppressing the poor for a time, until the Lord chooses to intervene at His Coming. Perhaps it is even a combination of both. As I point out in other articles, one thing I do know with all certainty, is that we cannot, and should not, doubt the Righteous Judgments of the Lord, even if we do not understand them. As the Prophet Isaiah, the Patriarch Job and the Apostle Paul were inspired to write:

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."
Isaiah 55:8-9, KJV

Moreover the LORD answered Job, and said, Shall he that contendeth with the Almighty instruct him? he that reproveth God, let him answer it. Then Job answered the LORD, and said, Behold, I am vile; what shall I answer thee? I will lay mine hand upon my mouth. Once have I spoken; but I will not answer: yea, twice; but I will proceed no further. Then answered the LORD unto Job out of the whirlwind, and said, Gird up thy loins now like a man: I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me. Wilt thou also disannul my judgment? wilt thou condemn me, that thou mayest be righteous?"
Job 40:1-8, KJV

"Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus?"
Romans 9:20, KJV

Sadly, this is precisely the ungodly attitude which has been embraced by many people in the world today. They have become so proud, and so vain in their imaginations, and so haughty, that they either claim that God does not exist, or else they

judge Him harshly and question His ways. "Well, if I was God . . ." they say; or, "If God is love, then why . . ."; or "If your God is so powerful . . ."; and on and on they go with their foolish lies and false accusations. Such people would be wise to take heed to the following wise counsel offered almost three thousand years ago:

"Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few."
Ecclesiastes 5:2, KJV

To continue with the previous thought, if certain nations and peoples are currently suffering under the oppressive hands of the wicked without just cause, the Bible makes it very clear that in due season, if they are indeed righteous in the Lord's eyes, God will indeed grant them relief. Due to its length, I cannot possibly quote it here, but I highly encourage you the reader to read Psalm Thirty-Seven. Jesus Himself quoted from this Psalm when in Matthew chapter five He said:

"Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth."
Matthew 5:5, KJV

While we have concentrated this section of our series on physical famines, it is important that you realize that the Bible also discusses another kind of famine; that is, a spiritual famine. A spiritual famine results when people are deprived of the Word of God which maintains their spiritual health, stamina, vision and faith. To understand this concept, please consider the following verses:

"Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he."
Proverbs 29:18, KJV

"Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food."
Job 23:12, KJV

"More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb."
Psalms 19:10, KJV

"But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."
Matthew 4:4, KJV

"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."
Romans 10:17, KJV

The simple truth of the matter, is that as Christians, we can no more do without the Word of God, than we can survive without our daily meals. Once we alienate ourselves from the Word of the Lord, we lose the vision, we lose our way, we lose our spiritual strength, we lose our faith, we become spiritually unclean, and if the situation continues for very long, we may just end up losing the battle! As I explain in such articles as "Revelation's Babylon The Great", there was a time in ancient Israel when the leadership and the people had become so backslidden in heart, that they began to persecute and kill the Lord's Messengers, the providers of

His Word, because they simply did not want to hear the truth of God's Word. As in the example of King David and Nathan, the words of the Prophets exposed their sins, and it cut them to the heart; just as we see in these verses:

"If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin."
John 15:22, KJV

"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."
Hebrews 4:12, KJV

"BETH. Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word."
Psalms 119:9, KJV

"Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you."
John 15:3, KJV

Because they rejected the Word of the Lord via His Prophets, they were unclean in His sight. The situation got so bad, that God finally told His Prophet, Amos, to tell the people that He was going to withhold His Word from them, because they were no longer worthy of it. He also told the Prophet Jeremiah to not even pray for the Israelites, because He would not hear their prayers. In short, as I explain in such articles as "Beholding The Evil And The Good", God turned His eyes away from seeing their suffering, and His ears away from hearing their cries: Consider the following verses:

"Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD: And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it."
Amos 8:11-12, KJV

"Therefore pray not thou for this people, neither lift up cry nor prayer for them, neither make intercession to me: for I will not hear thee."
Jeremiah 7:16, KJV

"Therefore pray not thou for this people, neither lift up a cry or prayer for them: for I will not hear them in the time that they cry unto me for their trouble."
Jeremiah 11:14, KJV

"Then said the LORD unto me, Pray not for this people for their good."
Jeremiah 14:11, KJV

Biblical history seems to indicate that for a period of several hundred years, following the return from Babylon, until the coming of Jesus Christ, which thus began the New Testament era, there was a period of silence. It is said that a few of the Prophets may have continued to write under pseudonyms, or pen names. It was during this period of the Grecian and the early Roman rule, that the Pharisees, the Sadducees and other legalistic groups became established in the Jewish religion, and the Written Law was elevated above

the Oral Word of God via the Lord's Prophets. As I explain elsewhere, this is why the Lord had so many verbal battles with His enemies during His Earthly Ministry. They were legalists who could not handle the freedom of the Spirit.

It is believed by some people, particularly by some of the Pre-Tribulation Rapture theorists, that the previous verses from the writings of the Prophet Amos, may be an indication of a similar great spiritual famine which will occur in our current time, when the worldwide Church is suddenly, and without warning, raptured out of the world; thus leaving a spiritual void for the forces of darkness to fill through the Beast, the False Prophet, the Antichrist, etc. While I personally do not agree with the Pre-Tribulation Rapture theory, I can agree that the world may be about to face a spiritual famine of serious proportions as they are denied the true Word of the Lord. In fact, as I point out in such articles as "In Defense Of The KJV" and "Have You Read The New Scriptures Yet?", it may be that this spiritual famine has already begun, as the Word of God has been corrupted, perverted, and in fact replaced by all of the many modern translations of the Bible, which I refer to as the NCRAP versions. These versions are robbed of Spirit, and they are robbed of truth due to intentional manipulation.

If we add to this fact the many false shepherds, false doctrines and false practices which have already invaded organized religion, it definitely seems like a spiritual famine has begun. One thing is for certain, the Bible does speak of one final famine which will befall the mysterious Babylon the Great Whore. Consider this verse:

"Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her."
Revelation 18:8, KJV

As we continue this series in part thirteen, I will briefly re-mention war and God's vessels of wrath. I will also talk about man's wisdom versus the Power and Will of God, the wicked heart of man, and the financial manipulation of the Black Horse of the Apocalypse. The bulk of part thirteen will be dedicated to the discussion of the many hurricanes, typhoons, tropical cyclones, floods and tidal waves which have plagued the world in recent years. I trust that you will join me.

Fulfilled Prophecy : The Beginning Of Sorrows : Part 13

God's Vessels Of Wrath, Man's Wisdom Is No Match For God,
Evil Heart Of Man, Black Horse Of The Apocalypse, Hurricanes
Typhoons And Tropical Cyclones, Worldwide Floods And Tidal
Waves

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Before concluding this section of our series on famines, allow me to share a few more important pieces of information with you. While we have seen that the Lord often judges and punishes peoples and nations by withholding the rain, or by using other natural forces to bring about His Will, we must realize that God can also use man's own sins of greed and lust as a scourge against the nations. Such is the case with

wars, as I discuss in such articles as "The Children Of God And Politics", "The Holocaust: Did God Make A Mistake?", "The Fruits Of Disobedience", and "The Seven Heads". These military leaders, as pagan as they are, are sometimes God's vessels of wrath, as in the case of Pharaoh of Egypt, the kings of Assyria, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, the Roman emperors, etc. Let me mention again that famine is often a by-product of war as the previous Biblical examples and news reports clearly reveal.

Earlier, I rhetorically asked how famines can continue to occur in our modern day, in light of man's science, and his advanced technology. As with certain incurable diseases, we have now seen that man's wisdom is simply no match for the Almighty God. If He wishes to judge a nation or people, He will do it, no matter how much man may try to prevent such things from happening; even if man tries to 'play God' by seeding the clouds so that they will send un natural rain, or by inventing his drugs which will combat the myriad of viruses and bacteria which attack the human system. In fact, as Paul tells us, man's wisdom is simply foolishness in God's sight:

"For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness."
1 Corinthians 3:19, KJV

But allow me to expand slightly on my answer. In the Gospel of Matthew, the Lord made a rather interesting statement. Consider the following verse:

"For ye have the poor always with you; but me ye have not always."
Matthew 26:11, KJV

Why would the Lord say that we always have the poor with us? In my view, it is because He knows the evil heart of man; or as the Apostle John wrote, He knows what is in man:

"And needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man."
John 2:25, KJV

In other words, Jesus knows that the evil heart of man never changes, and that some of the things which caused poverty and famine thousands of years ago, still exist today. This of course includes war and the fruits of war. Jesus and the Prophet Jeremiah both expose man's basic evil and sinful nature in the following verses:

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"
Jeremiah 17:9, KJV

"But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashed hands defileth not a man."
Matthew 15:18-20, KJV

What we have seen thus far is that famines can be the result of droughts induced by the Lord Himself, or they can be the by-product of war, which also leads to other things such as poverty, homelessness, destroyed economies, etc. However, I

believe that there is another catalyst which contributes to famine and poverty; and that is the questionable politics, and the unfair business and international trade practices, such as unjustified trade sanctions, which are conducted by certain corrupt governments of the world, in order to subdue their economic enemies, and bring them under subjection and bondage through financial manipulation; even if such evil practices result in inducing poverty and famine in a certain country. I am not alone in this view. In a 1998 news report, the Cable News Network released the following information:

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Exploring The Roots Of Famine

(CNN) -- A famine, by definition, is a widespread lack of food that results in misery and death. But Indian economist Amartya Sen makes the argument that misguided politics, not lack of food, is what makes that misery and death possible in the first place.

It is a hypothesis that springs not only from his academic research but also from his own experience. He was just 9 years old when he witnessed the devastating 1943 famine in Bengal, India, that killed more than 3 million poor people in the middle of an economic boom.

----- End Of Quote -----

How much this sounds just like the great famine which struck China during Mao Zedong's Great Leap Forward as we discussed before. The granaries were full, yet millions of people died from starvation. Truly the apocalyptic Black Horse of social and economic injustice, famine and poverty is indeed riding strong in these Last Days. Consider again the words of the Prophet John regarding this Endtime horse and its rider:

"And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine."
Revelation 6:5-6, KJV

Thus, whether it be by the Direct Hand of God, or through man's own evilness to man, God's Will is being performed, until the time when He will rid the Earth of all evil and corrupt men. Let me again encourage you to read Psalm thirty-seven. Please also consider the ending of this verse:

"And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth."
Revelation 11:18, KJV

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While we have now seen how God can chastise a nation or people for its sins by withholding the rain, thus inducing crop failure and famine, a preview of some of the world's news headlines will also quickly reveal that the Lord can accomplish the same purpose by allowing too much rain, and too much wind. Such is the case with hurricanes, typhoons,

tropical cyclones, floods and tidal waves. For the sake of clarification, hurricanes, typhoons and tropical cyclones all refer to the same meteorological phenomenon. They are simply called by different names in different areas of the world. Concerning these monstrous storms which leave death and destruction in their paths, consider the following sample reports which have appeared in the world mass media during the past few years:

----- Begin Quotes -----

Epidemic Threat Looms 11 Days After India Cyclone

CNN -- Masked rescue workers were struggling to clear mounds of bloated corpses 11 days after a fierce cyclone in India, and the Red Cross estimated Tuesday that 10,000 people had died -- far more than Indian authorities were reporting. A Red Cross disaster expert said the official death figure of 3,426 seemed inaccurate because thousands of bodies were cremated or buried by relatives or neighbors before official help arrived.

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Indian Army Helicopters Drop Aid To Desperate And Angry Cyclone Victims

NEW DELHI, India (CNN) -- Army helicopters on Tuesday dropped relief supplies to victims of one the most powerful cyclones ever to strike India, but the effort was not nearly enough to reach millions of residents demanding clean water and food.

"This is the worst flooding in 100 years, I would say it's the worst in India's history," said Asim Kumar Vaishnav, chief administrator of Baleshwar, the capital of Orrissa.

Thousands of people are feared dead from the cyclone, which slammed into the northeastern coast on Friday with winds up to 260 km/h (160 mph) and waves 10 meters high. Entire villages along the Bay of Bengal were reportedly washed away.

Communications were severed to most of the state and the hardest-hit areas remained inaccessible Tuesday. One witness who managed to get out told CNN correspondent Jane Arraf that he saw more than 100 bodies drift by as he drove through washed-out roads.

Others reported seeing human bodies and animal carcasses hung in trees after the floodwaters receded.

Helicopters dropped packets of protein-rich food and fresh water to survivors on Tuesday, but were only able to reach thousands of the estimated 2 million people affected along the 90-mile stretch of coast.

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Author Recounts 'The Deadliest Hurricane In History'

The 1999 hurricane season may have gotten off to a slow start, but with three tropical storms now lurking in the Atlantic and Hurricane Bret fresh in the minds of Texans, weather is the hot topic as summer turns into fall. In his new book, "Isaac's Storm: A Man, a Time, and the Deadliest

Hurricane in History," Erik Larson uses interviews, telegrams and other sources to walk his readers through the events of September 8, 1900: the day 8,000 people died in a hurricane in Galveston, Texas.

. . .

As Death Toll Rises, Mitch Ranked Among Deadliest of Atlantic Hurricanes

Disaster Relief -- More than 200 years ago, a massive hurricane raged through the Caribbean, killing an estimated 22,000 people. Although the death toll from Hurricane Mitch won't reach those numbers, forecasters and historians already are calling it the deadliest Atlantic hurricane in 200 years.

At least 11,000 people reportedly were killed during Mitch's week-long assault on Central America, including more than 6,000 in Honduras and 4,000 in neighboring Nicaragua.

On Thursday, Honduran officials lowered their estimate of the number of people missing from 11,000 to 4,621. The confirmed death toll was put at 4,621. In Nicaragua, the number of dead was raised from 2,400 to 4,000. The number of people said to be homeless in the region also was lowered from one million to 569,000.

Regardless of the corrections, most officials believe that the final death toll easily will rank Mitch among the deadliest hurricanes ever to strike the Caribbean. Hurricane Fifi, which struck Honduras in 1974, was blamed for approximately 10,000 deaths. But then, as now, an accurate accounting of the carnage was difficult to establish. At the turn of the century, a hurricane slammed into Galveston, Texas, killing at least 8,000 people (the naming of hurricanes is a relatively recent phenomenon).

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Death Toll From Storm Babs Rises to 192

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) - The recovery of more bodies in the Philippines raised the death toll from tropical storm Babs to 192, officials said today, but the storm lost much of its punch while moving along the southern coast of China.

In Manila, an official at the Philippine Office of Civil Defense said emergency crews have recovered 189 bodies and that 53 people were listed as missing. Previously, the official death count stood at 156.

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Death Toll from Typhoon Winnie Could Be Much Higher

The death toll in China from typhoon Winnie may be much higher than originally indicated.

The South China Morning Post is reporting that as many as 240 people may have been killed in the storm that tore through China's eastern Zhejiang province earlier this week. Reuters news service is reporting that 140 people died in the storm.

A Zhejiang province foreign affairs official said that

figures were still being collected.

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Storm Hits India, State Executive Says Death Toll May Reach 2,000

HYDERABAD, India (AP) - Flooding rice paddies and villages, ripping power poles from the ground, a fierce cyclone roared through India's southeast coast. The state's top official said Thursday the death toll could reach 2,000.

At least 670 residents were killed, another 1,500 people are missing and 10,000 homes were destroyed, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu said after an aerial survey of Andhra Pradesh state.

It was the second major storm in three weeks, coming before the battered region had time to recover from widespread storms and flooding that killed 350 people.

State Chief Secretary M.S. Rajaji said at least 250 villages were under water Thursday and many communities on the Bay of Bengal were inundated by 12-foot-high waves. Hundreds of thousands of acres of rice crops were destroyed.

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Hard-Hit Dominican Republic Welcomes Relief As Death, Damage Toll Rises

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic, Sept. 25, 1998 -- As the death toll on this hurricane-ravaged island continued to climb Friday, the first international relief efforts arrived here with promises of more support on the way.

The Dominican government, which was caught largely unprepared Tuesday for the force of Hurricane Georges, listed 125 dead and at least 90 missing, but news reports from hard-hit rural communities put the number of possible missing in the thousands.

The front page of one daily newspaper bore the stark headline: "Mesopotamia No Longer Exists," referring to a city in the western part of this country of 8 million people that was overwhelmed by torrential floodwaters. About 9,000 people were evacuated from the area, but U.S. Embassy spokesman Franklin Polanco said "nobody knows how many are in the mud."

In the town of Cambita, about 30 miles west of the capital, about 40 people were reported missing when floods swept away the shelter in which they were seeking refuge.

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Typhoon Bart Kills 22 In Japan

Typhoon Bart battered Japan on Friday, killing nearly two dozen people and injuring more than 300 as it clawed its way up the Japanese coast. Japanese authorities blamed the storm for 22 deaths and 333 injuries Friday as it hit southern Japan with winds of 144 km/h (90 mph). Gusts of up to 238 km/h (150 mph) were recorded early on Friday.

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Australia's Worst Cyclone Fizzles

PERTH, Australia (AP) -- The most powerful cyclone ever recorded in Australia lost power Thursday, but not before it wreaked havoc on a town along the country's remote northwest coast.

Residents of Whim Creek were picking over the damage caused when Cyclone John crashed into their town Wednesday, packing sustained winds of 130 mph and gusts of up to 180 mph. Forecasters said it was the strongest cyclone to hit the country since they began keeping records. Cyclone is the term used for hurricanes in Australia.

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As the following news reports reveal, in recent years, the world has also experienced a number of devastating floods which have taken the lives of thousands of people, and left millions more either missing or homeless. Sometimes these floods result from severe storms, from heavy monsoon rains, from hurricanes, typhoons and tropical cyclones, or from the Springtime thaw. Regardless of the physical cause of their origin, as with the other Endtime signs we have discussed, as Christians, we must learn to view these things as being ordained by the Hand of God, in order to fulfill His Divine Purposes, whatever they might be. To do otherwise, is to say that God is not All-Powerful, and that He is not in control of His Creation. Having said that, consider these reports:

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Survivors Gather As Venezuelan Flood Toll Soars

CNN -- Workers dug 1,500 graves in a Caracas cemetery for victims of mudslides along the Caribbean coast as the estimated death toll in Venezuela's worst natural disaster in 100 years reached more than 5,000 on Monday.

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200 Dead, Thousands Missing In Venezuela Floods

Venezuelan officials say tens of thousands of people are dead, missing or homeless from days of torrential rain, floods and mudslides. "There are approximately 150,000 people homeless, 7,000 persons are missing and about 200 dead," said Foreign Minister Jose Rangel, quoting figures for Caracas and seven other states, including the tourist island of Margarita. Rangel said he expected the casualty count in northern Venezuela to rise significantly.

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Venezuela Floods Declared Worst In Decades

CNN -- Venezuela President Hugo Chavez is calling this week's torrential rains and deadly flooding the worst disaster his nation has seen in half a century. In Caracas, the city's mayor said more than 100 people had died since Wednesday in the capital alone. At least 40 people were reported dead in the coastal state of Vargas, and tens of thousands were left homeless after 10 days of unyielding

rain and massive flash floods Wednesday and Thursday. Authorities declared nine northern states and Caracas disaster areas.

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Vietnam Flood Toll Tops 500, Weather Aids Relief Efforts

HANOI, Vietnam (Reuters) -- Helicopters and trucks filled with emergency supplies began pushing further into devastated parts of central Vietnam on Monday as the death toll from the region's worst floods in a century hit 527.

Official media on Monday said water levels were falling but that large numbers of people were still hungry and in danger of getting sick following one week of floods across eight provinces that stretch for some 600 kilometers (375 miles)

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Floods Maroon Hundreds, Death Toll Hits 2,000 In Southern Somalia

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP) - Heavy rain pounded Ethiopia again Saturday, feeding the overflowing rivers that have killed some 2,000 people and are threatening to create an inland sea in southern Somalia.

A month of flooding has inundated large areas of southern Somalia between the Ethiopian border and the Indian Ocean. High water has wiped out the freshly harvested staple crop of sorghum and left hundreds of thousands homeless and hungry.

The death toll is rising so fast that aid agencies can only guess at the carnage.

David Neff, CARE's director for Somalia, said any estimate below 2,000 dead "has got to be conservative."

He said the Juba River, which originates in Ethiopia and runs south to the Somali port of Kismayo, is now eight miles wide at some points. "Normally, this is what we would call a creek in the American Midwest," Neff said.

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Death Toll From China Floods Tops 2,000 -- 240 Million Affected

The official death toll from the massive floods that have plagued China this summer climbed past 2,000 on Thursday, and authorities have warned that the worst may be yet to come.

About one-fifth of China's population -- 240 million people -- are said to be affected by the floods, which are the result of unusually heavy rains that arrived earlier than expected this spring. Most of the deaths have been blamed on landslides and mudflows caused by torrential rains that have fallen since early June.

The Yangtze -- the world's third largest river -- has kept the pressure on, with water levels along many stretches at their highest levels since 1954, when floods killed 30,000 people. A fourth major flood crest has been working its way

down the river, and officials are concerned that waterlogged levees will begin to fail under the constant stress.

Flooding has been complicated by the arrival of tropical storm Otto which, although downgraded earlier in the week from typhoon status, still reached mainland China with strong winds and heavy rains.

Vice Minister of Civil Affairs Fan Baojun said nearly 14 million people have been forced to abandon their homes, and that nearly six million homes have been destroyed by the flood waters. Additionally, he said 53.2 million acres of farmland have been inundated and 11.8 million acres of crops destroyed.

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Survivors Dig Desperately For Mexico Mudslide Victims

Digging into mounds of mud with buckets, shovels and their bare hands, soldiers and survivors hoped to find survivors of southeastern Mexico's deadly mudslides early Saturday. President Ernesto Zedillo called the disaster "the tragedy of the decade." At least 293 people were confirmed dead but the number "is rising by the hour," Zedillo said on a visit to this Puebla city of 180,000 people, 110 miles (175 kilometers) east of Mexico City.

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Death Toll Rises From Torrential Rains In Mexico

Rescue teams are intensifying their efforts in central and southern Mexico, where floods and mudslides brought on by over a week of rain have killed at least 218 people. The downpour caused flooding in nine states across the country. Although the rain has subsided, government officials say the death toll is certain to rise as more reports come in from areas that are still cut off.

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Floyd Leaves 35 Dead As Flooding Continues

North Carolina struggled with the worst flooding in its history early Saturday as the death toll from Hurricane Floyd's march up the East Coast rose to 35. Military air rescue teams and squadrons of civilian boaters plucked people out of their homes and off the roofs of buildings. Authorities recovered seven more bodies from submerged cars in the state Friday, and braced for more flooding destruction on Saturday, when the Tar and Neuse Rivers were expected to crest.

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Texas Flood Victims Recover From Latest Weather Nightmare

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (CNN) -- The floods and storms that killed 29 people and left almost \$500 million in property damage in Texas this week were the latest in a series of recurring weather nightmares in the state.

Last summer, weeks of triple-digit heat killed at least 131 people and a punishing drought destroyed about \$2.1 billion in crops and livestock. Nine people died in flooding in Del

Rio and the nearby Hill Country in August, and hundreds of homes were destroyed. Tropical Storm Frances flooded southeast Texas coastal areas in September, causing \$300 million in damage.

"It's very coincidental, which is why it's a 100-year event, Rydell said. "To get everything to happen all at the same time is very unusual."

Up to 20 inches of rain fell on some areas around San Antonio beginning Saturday, October 17. The downpours were especially dangerous because they came after Texas suffered through a punishing drought that baked the state for weeks in triple-digit temperatures.

"Nature is devastating. It was only three months ago that we were praying for rain, and now in Texas we've got too much rain," said Gov. George Bush. "It happened so quickly and so suddenly."

Cuero, a town of 7,000 people 80 miles southeast of San Antonio, was among the areas hardest hit by the floods.

So many people in Cuero have mentioned the increase in poisonous snakes after the floods that state emergency services coordinator Tom Millwee called for snake handlers to come to the area.

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Another way in which the Lord sometimes lets His wrath be felt in this sinful world, is through a sometimes deadly phenomenon referred to as "tsunami", or tidal waves. These massive walls of water are sometimes generated by undersea seismic activity, that is, by earthquakes, while at other times, they are the result of gale force winds created by hurricanes, typhoons and tropical cyclones, pushing on the surface waters of the world's oceans. By the time these towering walls of destruction reach the coastline, they can contain the force of a moving locomotive, and the collision of water with land can be devastating, as we see by this report concerning the tidal wave which struck Papua New Guinea in July of 1998 following an earthquake:

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Death Toll From Papua New Guinea Tidal Wave Climbs To 600

Radio Australia -- Disaster relief officials in Papua New Guinea say the tidal wave that hit the north-west coast on Friday night killed about 600 people and the figure could rise to a-thousand.

Rescuers are still retrieving bodies from a lagoon at the scene of the disaster.

Sean Dorney reports from the Wahiu Catholic Health Centre at Aitape where hundreds of people are being treated for injuries suffered when the tidal wave smashed their houses.

The doctor in charge of the Wahiu Health Centre, Dutch Doctor Menno Swiyar says they're doing war surgery. People with smashed up bodies are being delivered to them by the hour and some are having to be treated on the floor. Brother Gary Hill who's been a Health Extension Officer in Papua New Guinea for 38 years told me of how yesterday he was pulling

dead bodies from the lagoon behind what was once Arop Village when he heard some splashing. He found a woman alive but with a badly broken leg. She had spent the night trying to keep her head above the water surrounded by five dead bodies. She's been taken to the Provincial Hospital at Vonomo for emergency treatment. Sean Dorney Aitape.

----- End Of Quote -----

As we conclude this series in part fourteen, we will turn our attention to yet another weather phenomenon quite common in the United States of America; that is, tornadoes. Also to be discussed will be science and medicine's losing battle, medical errors, false peace treaties and the inevitability of war, America's growing vulnerability, Y2K and the threat of cyber-terrorism, our God of love and God of wrath, the Lord's forewarning to His children, trust and obedience in place of fear, the Lord's final shake-up of the Earth, the Children of Disobedience, the price of sharing our knowledge with others, Christian persecution, and keeping our eyes on Jesus. I trust that you will join me.

Fulfilled Prophecy : The Beginning Of Sorrows : Part 14

Tornadoes, World Weather Gone Amuck, Science And Medicine's Losing Battle, Medical Errors, False Peace And War, Threat To American Power, Y2K And Cyber-Terrorism, God Of Love And God Of Wrath, God's Forewarning, Don't Fear - Trust And Obey God Shakes The Earth, Evil Children Of Disobedience, Price Of Knowledge, Christian Persecution, Keep Your Eyes On Jesus

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Within the continental United States of America, there is an area which encompasses some of the Central and Mid-Western states which has acquired the name of "Tornado Alley". While this is not the only area of the United States where this phenomenon strikes, percentage-wise, there is no doubt that this area holds the record for the formation of these deadly storm systems. Unlike a hurricane which forms out over warm tropical ocean waters, usually reaches maximum sustained winds of 75-150 miles per hour, and then weakens once it reaches land, tornadoes form over the land, can clock wind speeds of over two hundred miles per hour, and during their short lifetime, can create as much devastation as, or more devastation than, a hurricane which can survive for several days or longer before dissipating. Consider the following reports issued by CNN and Disaster Relief concerning a series of deadly tornadoes which struck the Oklahoma-Kansas area the night of May 4, 1999:

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Tornado Toll 43; Neighborhoods Wiped Out

OKLAHOMA CITY (CNN) -- President Clinton issued federal disaster orders and rescuers searched for more victims in Oklahoma and Kansas on Tuesday, the day after dozens of tornadoes laid waste to entire neighborhoods, killing at least 43 people.

Throughout the region, hundreds of people were injured and thousands of homes and businesses were lost.

Most of the destruction was in Oklahoma, where some communities "simply don't exist," Gov. Frank Keating told CNN. "It looks like a huge battle has taken place."

In the path of dozens of tornadoes, rows and rows of houses were reduced to rubble. Cars were tossed about and crushed. Natural gas spewed from ruptured lines. Power poles were reduced to kindling, and broken, twisted wires littered the ground.

Oklahoma hospitals were overwhelmed with injuries as a result of the "monster" storms that Keating described as the state's "largest tornadoes ever."

The biggest of them formed near Chickasha, 45 miles southwest of Oklahoma City, and cut a path at least a half-mile wide as it moved north and east. Skipping across the flat Oklahoma countryside, it toppled trees, power lines, outbuildings and cars until it ripped into south Oklahoma City.

While many tornadoes are short-lived, this one stayed on the ground for about four hours, the National Weather Service said. Forecasters said it might be categorized at least F-4, the second-strongest tornado classification, with winds of at least 207 mph.

The path of tornado destruction in Oklahoma City was 19 miles long and up to a half-mile wide, said Mayor Kirk Humphreys.

2. Entire neighborhoods were wiped out in south Oklahoma City, with survivors aimlessly wandering through the debris, some disoriented, others refusing to go to shelters, opting to sleep in their cars, reports from the scene said.

An estimated 1,000 homes were blown away in Oklahoma City alone and hundreds more were badly damaged, police said. "In some cases, entire residential neighborhoods were leveled," said Oklahoma City Police Capt. Charles Allen.

* In Moore, a suburb of Oklahoma City, police said 7,500 homes were damaged or destroyed -- half of its 15,000 single-family residences. "It looks like a bomb hit here," said mortician John Ireland. "Houses are just leveled. It looks like a battlefield."

* In nearby Del City, an area two miles long and a mile wide was cordoned off where officials said homes were reduced to their cement slab foundations.

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Tornadoes Devastate Oklahoma

More than a dozen tornadoes roared across Oklahoma and Kansas Monday night, killing at least 41 people and destroying more than 2,000 homes. Oklahoma Gov. Frank Keating said the storm system probably was the worst in the history of Oklahoma, which has seen its share of twisters over the years.

Initial reports indicated at least 36 people were dead in Oklahoma and five others were killed in Kansas. However, officials on the scene said they expect the death toll could rise as the sun's first light reaches the area.

At least 1,000 homes reportedly were destroyed in Oklahoma City alone. In Moore, south of the capital, hundreds of homes were damaged or destroyed. Video footage showed vehicles twisted and smashed and spread across highways. Keating called in the National Guard to cordon off a 25-square-mile area of southern Oklahoma City where thousands were without power and witnesses described a scene of bedlam.

"It's just absolutely unprecedented. No one has ever heard of something like this," said Keating. "There are a lot of communities we are getting information from the highway patrol and sheriff's office that have literally been obliterated."

"There was a massive amount of damage," said David Imy of the Storm Prediction Center in nearby Norman, Okla. "There are blocks completely gone."

Imy said at least 12 tornadoes ripped through the area Monday night. Area hospitals reported receiving hundreds of injured shortly after the tornadoes struck.

"We are getting so many injuries we are just tagging them and bringing them in," said Shara Findley, a spokeswoman for Hillcrest Health Center in Oklahoma City.

American Red Cross spokesman Kristen Hall said, "It's just been total devastation in many of the neighborhoods. They have been completely wiped out from the foundation on."

At least one of the tornadoes that struck Oklahoma City reportedly was a mile wide at times. Scientists at the National Severe Storms Lab in nearby Norman, Okla., said at least one of the twisters appeared to have been an F-5 - the strongest possible tornado, which can pack winds higher than 260 mph.

Several tornadoes formed over a five-hour period Monday evening, and at least three warnings were issued as late as 10:30 p.m. Most of the damage appeared to have been done between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. At least 250 people were injured in Oklahoma.

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For any honest person who is reading this series, it should be obvious by now that the world's weather system has truly gone amuck. No country has been left totally untouched by the many droughts, floods, monsoon rains, severe storms, heat waves, hurricanes, typhoons, tropical cyclones and tornadoes which have been loosed on the world by a wrathful God during the past several years.

From the United States of America, to Europe, to Asia, to Africa, to South America, to Australia, everyone has felt His Hand of Judgment in one way or another. The reports I have included in this series, and there are many, many more, prove this point beyond a shadow of a doubt in my mind. Even if certain countries haven't been directly affected by these "natural" calamities, they have been affected indirectly due to the global economy which necessitates international trade with those countries which have been directly affected by these plagues, or by the movement of great masses of people from the affected areas. As a few honest people have been

willing to admit, something very strange is going on when a country is repeatedly hit by droughts and floods, sometimes during the very same year.

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In like manner, in spite of all their boasts which appear frequently in the mass media, it should also be apparent that the science and medical community do not possess the power, or the knowledge, to hold back the new and powerful pathogens, that is viruses and bacteria, which are resulting in plagues and epidemics of various proportions the world over, such as the AIDS epidemic. Again, I have presented clear evidence from the false prophets, the mass media, themselves. Proud, foolish man is simply not winning the battle as he claims. In fact, in spite of all of the good which modern medicine appears to be doing, as the following startling reports reveal, every single year, a minimum of 44,000 to 98,000 people die in the United States of America, as a result of errors in medical procedures, whether it be due to prescribing the wrong medicine, or something even worse:

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Chat Transcript: Dr. Gordon Schiff On Medical Mistakes

(CNN) -- Dr. Gordon Schiff discussed the medical errors estimated to produce more than 44,000 deaths in the United States each year during a CNN.com chat on December 7, 1999. Dr. Schiff serves as Director of Clinical Quality Research in the Collaborative Research Unit of the Department of Medicine at Cook County Hospital in Chicago.

. . .

DR. STEVE SALVATORE, HOST: Welcome to YOUR HEALTH. I'm Dr. Steve Salvatore.

To err is human, but when it comes to the practice of medicine, it can be deadly. And a new report suggests it often is. In fact, the study shows medical errors are now the eighth-leading cause of death in America. That's ahead of highway accidents, breast cancer, and even AIDS.

If that's not bad enough, experts say the numbers are probably underreported.

So what's wrong with our health care system? And more importantly, what's being done about it?

CNN medical correspondent Eileen O'Connor takes a look.

EILEEN O'CONNOR, CNN MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT (voice-over): The Institute of Medicine cites studies showing between 44,000 and 98,000 people die as a result of mistakes by medical professionals each year in the United States.

DR. DONALD BERWICK, INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE COMMITTEE MEMBER: That's probably an underestimate, for two reasons. One is, there are many kinds of errors that we never learn about, even in retrospective studies, because they're never written down. And second, these studies do not include other areas of care, like home care, nursing homes, and ambulatory care settings.

O'CONNOR: The majority of errors, the report says, are not from recklessness but from basic flaws in the way care is organized, like stocking hospital wards with full-strength drugs that can be toxic unless diluted, making a mistake more likely. Others are the result of simple human error, like a hurriedly written order on a chart that is misinterpreted.

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To add to man's dilemma, in spite of so many deceitful treaties, and false cries of "Peace, peace!", the world has never been so near to the brink of destruction, as it is at this current time. More nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons are possessed by more nations now, than at any other time in the world's history, and the number continues to grow. With good reason the government of the United States of America is concerned about the proliferation of nuclear arms. Not only do these weapons in the possession of other nations threaten her position as the "Queen of the World", but many of those weapons are, or will be, pointed right at her evil, selfish, proud, lustful, and oppressive heart! All it takes is one misunderstanding, one occasion of being pushed beyond the limits, one nervous finger, one misjudged feeling of a sense of superiority and false confidence, one occasion of being pushed back into the corner too far, to set things off; and it is bound to happen sooner or later. Man has his atomic toys, and he is just dying to play with them; and when he finally does, many people will indeed be dying!

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To complicate the Endtime scenario even further, in recent years, a new form of militancy and rebellion has come to the fore. With the advent of the computer age, cyber-terrorism has made its appearance, and now threatens us every time we log on to the Internet and check our email, or visit a web site. In recent months, the mass media has reported quite a few new viruses and trojans which have been released upon an unsuspecting naive public; and many servers, both government commercial and private alike, have been victimized by these unseen, sick terrorists, who simply find their thrills in defacing a web site, or in crashing a personal computer. Of course, there are also serious hackers of foreign nations to deal with as well. With only two weeks to go until we arrive at the new year, and learn the verdict of the Y2K glitch, the expectation is high that many cyber-terrorists, both private, and of foreign governments, will take advantage of the confusion which may result from Y2K, in order to release a wide range of new and destructive viruses and trojans upon the worldwide cyber-community. Consider this recent report released by CNN news:

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FBI, Pentagon Brace For Y2k Hacker Attacks

WASHINGTON (CNN) -- The FBI and the Pentagon are planning a special vigil as 1999 comes to a close, fearing both government and private sector computers could come under attack as the calendar changes to 2000.

Terrorists, hostile nations, criminals and recreational hackers could all launch assaults at the same time -- and could use Y2K malfunctions to hide their actions.

"It is not at all unreasonable to expect the people and the groups who engage in those activities every day might focus their activities at the same time around the date change," said Michael Vatis, head the National Infrastructure Protection Center (NIPC).

Established at FBI headquarters in February 1998, the NIPC is the government's control center for threat assessment, warning, investigation, and response for threats or attacks against critical infrastructure.

Potential targets include computers that handle government agencies, banking transactions, utilities, transportation systems and communications networks.

While the FBI has not identified any specific threats, it is preparing a large-scale response.

24-Hour Command Post Planned

From December 29 through January 5, the FBI will maintain a 24-hour command post at its headquarters and run similar operations at all 56 of its field offices throughout the country.

A Pentagon monitoring station also will be on alert to guard against intrusions.

The intensive government response is, in part, a reflection of a growing trend. Every day there are 80 to 100 hacking attempts on Pentagon computers and still more on other government databases.

This year there have also been a number of virus attacks causing widespread disruption to private businesses.

Computer Crime Caseload Growing

In fact, the FBI computer crime caseload has doubled each of the last two years. In October, the agency reported 800 pending cases.

"They have vulnerabilities even without the Y2K opportunity added on to them," said Richard Power of the Computer Security Institute. "So that's why there is activity about contingency plans."

Companies around the nation are taking the potential threat seriously.

"Y2K and concern about viruses and other cyber crime during this millennium transition is something that is very important to our customers," said Marc Soqol, senior vice president of Computer Associates, one of the largest providers of computer security software.

FBI officials don't want to scare the public, but, they say, high profile events like the millennium change are often a magnet for criminals, even those operating in cyberspace.

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While many hard-hearted pagans and unbelievers of the world will continue to attribute all of these calamities to such things as "El Niño", "La Niña", sun spot activity and other

"natural causes", as well as to wars and the evil fruits of wars, we Christians who know the Lord and His Word, know the truth regarding these matters; or at least we should. God is trying to get the world's attention through their suffering, in order to bring repentance to the lives of many. They need to forsake their false religions, their corrupt political and economic practices, their oppression of the poor, their ungodly lifestyles, their violent wars, and their industrial assault on the natural creation.

Undoubtedly, some people will accuse me of painting God as some kind of unloving monster. This includes some Christians who, because they are not familiar with the true Word of God, are of the erroneous opinion that God is only love, and thus He would never allow such tragedies to happen to His children. If you are one who has embraced this view, then may I encourage you to re-read the Scriptures I shared with you earlier in this series, as they speak for themselves. If the children of ancient Israel did not escape the Wrath of God when they displeased and rebelled against the Almighty, for what reason then do some Christians, such as some self-righteous Christians in the United States of America, think that they can escape His Chastisements when they likewise fail to obey His Word? To even think this way is extremely hypocritical.

You must decide for yourself if you wish to believe God's Word as it is recorded in the pages of the Holy Bible, or else continue to cling to your own misconceptions and false ideas, which you may have obtained from organized religion, which incidentally, is currently doing its best to present a politically-correct image to the world, through its serious compromise of Scriptural truth. For more on this topic, please read such articles as "Modern False Prophets And Worldly Ecumenism".

As all of the previous verses and news excerpts clearly indicate, while God is indeed a God of Love, He is also a God of Wrath; and sometimes His Divine Love as our Heavenly Father, must be manifested to us through the righteous exercise of His Wrath upon His wayward children. If you are not yet convinced of this fact, then may I encourage you to read some of my other articles which discuss this very same topic. This includes "Beholding The Evil And The Good", "Are Personal Tragedies Due To Sin?", "Love, Mercy, Chastisement And Forgiveness", etc. For the time being, allow me to share a few additional verses with you which will further prove this point:

"Open rebuke is better than secret love."
Proverbs 27:5, KJV

"And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons . . . Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby. Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but

let it rather be healed."
Hebrews 12:5-8, 11-13, KJV

In conclusion, whether or not people agree with them, or understand them, as we saw at the beginning of this series, the Lord Himself forewarned us of these things almost two thousand years ago. He wanted us to know about the coming wars which would scourge the world, the incurable plagues and the epidemics, the widespread famines, the devastating earthquakes, the prolonged draughts, the many hurricanes, typhoons and tropical cyclones, the tidal waves, the floods and the tornadoes. God likewise wanted us to know of the rising tide of evil in the world as men oppress men through political, economic, military and religious means in order to make themselves lords over the poor of the world. Jesus referred to these things as the 'Beginning of Sorrows'; only precursors of worse things to come. Not only that, but as I mentioned earlier, He also said that men's hearts would fail them for fear, that is, they would have heart attacks, when the final Endtime events began to occur upon the Earth in earnest:

"Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken."
Luke 21:26, KJV

While many people who do not know God's Word will fear as these Endtime events begin to escalate upon the Earth, as God's children, He tells us not to fear. That is precisely one of the reasons why He has chosen to impart to us this knowledge; because knowledge of the Divine One's Ways and Will removes ignorance and fear. As the Prophet Amos was inspired to write:

"Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets."
Amos 3:7, KJV

Thus, rather than fear, we are to trust in Him completely, knowing that He does indeed love us, and that He will not allow anything to happen to us unless it is in accordance to His Divine Will, and for our own good. Please consider the following verses:

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee."
Isaiah 26:3, KJV

"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, KJV

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."
Romans 8:28, KJV

So again, Jesus knew that these things would come upon the Earth, and He wanted us, His children, to know about them, so that we would not fear, but trust in Him; therefore, there should be no doubt that they are ordained of God. El Shaddai, the Almighty God, is indeed allowing these things to happen, because the stench of man's sickness, perversity and evilness has filled His nostrils; and He has risen to

shake Himself, and the Earth, once more; and we are only now seeing the beginning of His Divine Chastisements upon a rebellious and anti-God world; the "Beginning of Sorrows". As the Apostle Paul wrote:

"See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven: Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire."

Hebrews 12:25-29, KJV

Before bringing this series to its conclusion, I feel that there is one more issue which we must discuss. While the Lord has indeed chosen to impart this knowledge to those of us who study and believe His Word, there is a price to pay for imparting this same saving knowledge to others; and this price will become more apparent as time goes on. As I have already made clear, while we Christians understand the true nature, origin and purpose of 'natural disasters' and other calamities which are befalling the people of the world, due to their sins of rebellion and unbelief, most people refuse to accept them. As such, the more we try to tell them the truth, in the hope that they will repent of their sins, and accept God's Saving Grace through Jesus Christ, the more they will hate us for it. This is because they are the evil children of disobedience who walk the broad way, as we see by these verses:

"Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:"

Ephesians 2:2, KJV

"Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience."

Ephesians 5:6, KJV

"For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:"

Colossians 3:6, KJV

"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

Matthew 7:13-14, KJV

As I explain in such articles as "Civil Disobedience And Christian Persecution", the time is coming when some of us may be called to face ridicule, persecution, and possibly even death. Yet in spite of this, the Lord still requires of us that we trust in Him. Consider these verses:

"But before all these, they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues, and

into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for my name's sake. And it shall turn to you for a testimony. Settle it therefore in your hearts, not to meditate before what ye shall answer: For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist. And ye shall be betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks, and friends; and some of you shall they cause to be put to death. And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake. But there shall not an hair of your head perish. In your patience possess ye your souls."

Luke 21:12-19, KJV

"If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me."

John 15:18-21, KJV

"Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."

2 Timothy 3:12, KJV

To conclude then, as each Endtime sign is fulfilled, and as gross spiritual darkness fills the world more and more, and as the rebellious children of the world begin to rise up against us more and more, in order to quench the brilliant Light of Truth which we bear, please remain faithful and obedient to the Lord. Let nothing turn your eyes to the right hand or to the left. Let your eyes continue to look right on to Jesus, the Author and the Finisher of your faith. If you do this, surely you will receive a Crown of Life:

"Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee. Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established. Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil."

Proverbs 4:25-27, KJV

"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."

Hebrews 12:1,2, KJV

With these inspiring words I will bring another series to a close. I pray that it has been a blessing and instructive in your life; and that it will motivate you to make sure that your heart is right with the Lord, and that you are doing your best to please Him. Time is growing short. Are you ready?

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