

## CHAPTER TWELVE:

### CONCLUSIONS AND PREDICTIONS

Much of end-time prophecy in the Bible is ambiguous, which explains why so many have been so wrong in their predictions over the centuries. “Wars and rumors of wars” could have applied to many periods of history. If you believe that the Daniel prophecy regarding a “king of the North” and “king of the South” refers to an end-time reiteration of the historically-fulfilled saga of Antiochus IV Epiphanes, there have been many candidates for these roles over the centuries. Even Jesus’ warning that the very last days would be “*like the days of Noah*,” is susceptible to speculation based on subjective perceptions.

#### **The Revealed Antichrist Prerequisite**

But some of the Bible prophecies are totally *unambiguous*, meaning that none of the human guesses of the past were ever truly realistic because certain clearly stated prerequisites for the second coming had not been met. The most obvious of those prerequisites are stated plainly in 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12:

*“Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to Him, we ask you, brothers, not to be easily disconcerted or alarmed by any spirit or message or letter seeming to be from us, alleging that the **Day of the Lord** has already come. **Let no one deceive you in any way, for it will not***

***come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness—the son of destruction—is revealed.** He will oppose and exalt himself above every so-called god or object of worship. So **he will seat himself in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.** Do you not remember that I told you these things while I was still with you? **And you know what is now restraining him, so that he may be revealed at the proper time.** For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work, but the one who now restrains it will continue until he is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will slay with the breath of His mouth and annihilate by the majesty of His arrival” (2 Thessalonians 2:1-7).*

Remember, that the “Day” in question is the “*the Day of vengeance of our God,*” mentioned in Isaiah 61:2 (and *many* other prophecies) referring to the 1000 year “day” of the millennial kingdom (which begins with events described in Revelation 19:11-21). It is prophesied in Hosea 6:1-2: “*Come, let’s return to the LORD. For He has torn us, but He will heal us; He has wounded us, but He will bandage us. “He will revive us after two days; He will **raise us up on the third day**, That we may live before Him.”* The Millennial Kingdom is the 7<sup>th</sup> 1000 year “day,” the Sabbath, in the pattern of sevens established at the creation. The “*two days*” of Hosea 6 (the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> days of Creation) are the 2000 year *Age of the Gentiles* (Romans 11:25), begun by Christ at His first advent.

The “third day” of Hosea 6:2 is the third of the “last days” referenced by Peter in Acts 2:14-21, specifically when he said “*this [outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost at the birth of the Christian church] is what has been spoken through the prophet Joel: ‘and it shall be **in the last days**, God says, ‘that I will pour out my spirit on all mankind.’*”

Thus the imminent “*third day*” of Christianity in Hosea 6 is a reference to the 7<sup>th</sup> and final day of the Creation, “*the great and glorious day of the*

*Lord*” when Christ will *literally* rule on earth from Jerusalem on the Throne of David for one full millennial “day.” “Literally” is the operative word here, meaning *actually* as opposed to figuratively or symbolically. To take the Bible literally means to accept its claims at face value instead of treating them as figures of speech or symbolic metaphors, a form of interpretation known in theology as spiritualizing. However it is labeled, the practice amounts to denying the plain meaning of the words and their context.

The greatest error in studying prophecy is spiritualizing what the Bible itself purports to be literal. And there is no topic more erroneously spiritualized than the millennial kingdom. Unfortunately, the official doctrine of Roman Catholicism (and thus most of Christendom whose roots are in Roman Catholicism) is “amillennialism” (which denies there will be a millennial kingdom). And there are also “post-millennials,” who claim the millennial kingdom came and went without the prophecies having been fulfilled – putting us into unlimited “overtime” to use a baseball metaphor).

But for those of us with a literalist Biblical worldview, when, for example, the Bible says in Revelation 20 that the saints will rule for 1000 years while Satan and the wicked are held in chains, we believe the Bible. And in working to discover other supporting passages we find that literal millennialism is a harmony sung throughout the Scriptures – as this book has shown.

## **The Hebrews in the Holy Land Prerequisite**

As we have noted throughout this book, all Bible prophecies should be viewed from the perspective of Jerusalem, especially those set in the Holy Land. Most importantly, many prophecies show the Hebrews dwelling in

the land at the rise of the Antichrist kingdom, which the story of the two witnesses (Revelation 11:1-14) makes very clear.

In 135 AD the Roman authorities permanently expelled the Jews from the Holy Land and renamed it Syriac Palestine. The Jews only began to return in number some eighteen centuries later in 1917 with the conquest of the Islamic Ottoman Turks by the Christian British Empire, and the issuance of the “Balfour Declaration” inviting the Jews to repopulate the land. In 1948, upon the expiration of the British Mandate under international law, the Jewish leadership declared Israel, including West Jerusalem, to be a modern independent state. In 1967, Israel reclaimed East Jerusalem to unite the Holy City under Hebrew control.

But those facts did not fully meet the conditions for the return of Christ. Per 2 Thessalonians 2, the Antichrist must control Israel, and he must set up the Abomination of desolation in the “Holy Place” (which is most likely a reconstructed 3rd Temple). We’re not there yet.

## **The Beginning of Birth Pains**

And so it appears that we are between the proverbial rock and a hard place. A rise in apostasy is obviously upon us. The demonic realm is manifesting itself in the world in various ways. The law of Cumulative Sin is still at work and the “grapes of wrath” are rapidly ripening on the vine.

What comes next is the beginning of birth pains – a period of global chaos that sets the stage for the Antichrist kingdom. It could happen at any time, and be triggered by any number of events, but a new world war or global economic meltdown seem most likely.

But we also know that (with some exceptions) the events in God’s

schedule do not come with mechanical precision but are usually more organic and seasonal – transitioning from one phase to the next like blossom to fruit or spring to summer. We can thus read the signs of what’s to come in the circumstances and events of today.

Jesus said “*Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its branches become tender and sprout leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see all these things, you will know that He is near, right at the door. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have happened* (Matthew 24:32-34). We know for sure that the House of Judah is the fig tree. Its new life in the Holy Land seems best measured from 1917. And the biblical lifespan of the generation born then (120 years per Genesis 6:3) ends in the year 2037. That would give us about 15 or 16 years for all of the final events of prophecy to occur IF these assumptions are accurate. That’s my best guess, in any case.

Whether I am right or wrong in the specifics of my timeline, I believe He is coming soon. This book is my best effort at modeling and teaching the biblical worldview, which is the work I want Him to find me doing when He returns. I hope and pray it has helped you.

As a final help, I am closing this book with a second, larger sized set of our charts that some readers may have had difficulty reading. All of the charts and other resources related to this project are available at [ScottLively.net](http://ScottLively.net). God bless you, and us all, as we await the return of the King.