

*“If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?”*  
*-- Psalms 11:3.*

# The Beginning of the Great Tribulation

The year 2016 began with a convulsive spasm of world trouble and torment. Riots, revolution, earthquakes, drought, flooding, wild fires, food shortages, massive refugee flows, coups and attempted coups, and civil war – the nations are raging. People are frightened, terrified. Never have world troubles been so horrendous and threatening. What does it all mean? Where are we NOW in Bible prophecy?

William F. Dankenbring.

A nationwide return to God is America's only hope for the future, evangelist Franklin Graham said before the start of the Republican National Convention.

“This nation – it needs a spiritual healing from Almighty God,” Graham said before praying. “Our country – I don't have to tell you – is in trouble. And the only hope for this country is God. It's not the politicians. It's God.”

Graham said America has been running away from God. “The secularists, the progressives, many of these people, most of them are people that would be atheistic, and we have taken God out of our country,” he said. “We have taken Him out of our nation; we have taken Him out of our government.”

“We have taken Him out of the education system, and our country is beginning to implode,” he continued. “We're on the precipice of anarchy.”

“It seems as though our country is just unraveling,” he said, citing the violence in Baton Rouge, Dallas, and Orlando. “We are losing God's blessing; we're losing His hand of protection.”

Look at the signs all around us – the warning flags are flying!

## *Coming of the Antichrist*

In I John 2:18-19 we read: “Dear children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the *Antichrist* is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour. *They went out from us*, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us.”

The word antichrist is capitalized here meaning that it is a specific individual prophesied to come in the last days who will lead the world astray, who is anti God and Christian religion even though he appears to be a Christian. John says “went out from us” but went out into error of wickedness and lawlessness.

How close are we to that time?

In the days after the flood Nimrod, a black man, a son of Cush, who was a grandson of Noah, was the “antichrist” of that generation and led the whole world into apostasy what was called the “Babylonian mystery” system. Ironically the name Nimrod comes from a Hebrew root word *marad* meaning “he rebelled” or “rebel”. In these last days, a final world-ruling “antichrist” is going to rise up and set himself up in the place of Christ and even claim to be the Messiah, the anointed One of God.

Antichrist teaches the opposite of the truth of God. President Obama has designated the month of June as gay pride month to honor homosexuals. The Supreme Court has approved same-sex marriage. Now Obama is messing with bathroom policy in schools across the nation for “transgenders.”

God says He will not be mocked. It is interesting that the Secret Service code name for President Obama is *renegade*. Renegade means “rebel” or “one who rebels.” Could he be on a trajectory to become the endtime “Antichrist” who will surge to the forefront and lead the nations of the world to fight against Christ at His return?

Will you be taken in, and deceived, by the end-time “Antichrist” and his apologists, propagandists, and spokesmen? The apostle Paul warned, speaking of our days, the Day of the coming of the true Christ, or Messiah, will not come “unless the FALLING AWAY [APOSTASY] comes first, and the man of sin [lawlessness] is revealed, the son of perdition” – the Antichrist (II Thess.2:3).

Paul talks about the insidious, undercover plot to seize control of the world, in our days, by a “shadow government” working behind the scene. He says, “For the mystery of lawlessness is ALREADY at work” (v.7)); “only He who now restrains will do so until He [or, “he,” margin] is taken out of the way. And then that lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming” (v.7-8).

Paul warns that his coming will be “with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous DECEPTION among those who perish, because they did not receive the *LOVE OF THE TRUTH*, that they might be saved [spared, protected]” (v.9-10).

The deception of this oncoming, world political and religious system will be so powerful and strong that, Christ Himself warned, “For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to DECEIVE, *if possible*, even the elect” (Matt.24:24).

Says the apostle Paul, “Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall” (I Cor.10:12). In other words, for truth stand tall, lest you completely fall! Remember Humpty Dumpty who sat on a wall, who had a great fall, and all the king’s horses and all the king’s men, couldn’t put poor Humpty together again!

### *End Time Deception*

Jesus Christ speaks of what the times will be like before His second coming. There are things that we need to watch out for in the meantime, so that we will not become distracted, lose our focus, and become confused or perish. He warned, “Be careful that no one misleads you [deceiving you and leading you into error]. For many will come in (on the strength of) My name [appropriating the name which belongs to Me], saying, I am the Christ (the Messiah), and they will lead many astray” (Matt.24:4-5, Amplified Parallel Bible).

In other words, we should take every precaution, so that no one deceives us – no one. Many deceivers will rise up in the last days, most notably, the “Antichrist,” who will claim that he is “God’s chosen one,” the “Anointed One,” the “Messiah” who will save the world – even while he plots its utter destruction and annihilation of all his enemies and those who do not bow before him and obey his dictates and orders!

Could you fall for such a man?

Some preach a fiction of a pre-tribulation rapture, some will claim the Law of God is done away, that the weekly Sabbath and annual festivals (Sabbaths) are not commanded today, that tithes and offerings are optional, and there is no “true calendar” or it doesn’t matter what calendar one uses.

The signs that we are living in the end times are all around us!

### *Final Stages of Prophecy*

How close are we to the end? Have we really entered the first stages of the final stages of the end and the time of Jacob’s Trouble? Have world troubles begun to increase exponentially this year?

It seems to me, this year of 2016 has become a year of significant changes in the world for the worst. The world is becoming fragmented, divided and increasing unstable—much more warlike than ever before. A dark cloud is beginning to descend upon the world greater than ever.

Let’s take a brief look at the latest “news.”

On the financial front, “Over 48 million Americans are currently on food stamps. That’s over 15% of the population that ostensibly already can’t afford to feed themselves without government assistance! What happens if food outlets stop accepting food stamps?

We are really just one minor civil war, disaster or unpredictable chain of events away from seeing the dollar dethroned. Many think the dollar will collapse later this year. Even Donald Trump warns we are on the edge of a financial precipice! It is time for us to prepare for hard times coming and get out of debt.

2016 has proven fateful for Israel, as it faces a growing threat and increasing hatred from its Muslim neighbors. ISIS continues to threaten the region. Turkey has become a militant Islamic dictatorship. A historic political “earthquake” in the Middle East is threatening world stability, as millions of refugees flood into Europe.

### *The Middle East Quagmire*

The next “end time sign” that the apocalypse is rapidly approaching is Obama’s policy toward Israel and the Muslim nations. As he bows before the Saudi king, and makes love to the Muslim nations, and turns his back on America’s oldest friend in the Middle East, there will be “hell” to pay as God Himself turns His back on the United States and the rest of the world for ignoring and worsening the plight of Israel, God’s chosen people.

Could President Obama complete his betrayal of Israel by supporting the United Nations’ declaration of a Palestinian State? Such a nightmare betrayal is not out of the question but is very likely, as worldwide pressure increases to force the state of Israel to willingly retreat to its indefensible pre-1967 borders.

Since modern day Israel was created in May 1948, American Jews and Christians have agreed on one very serious matter; America had a religious commitment to tiny Israel and must support her at all costs. American Jews were especially vexed over reports that Barack Obama is a closet Muslim and therefore, will not support Israel during a time of life-and-death struggle.

If President Obama joins the International Community in attempting to force Israel to withdraw to her indefensible pre-1967 borders, God’s judgment will surely fall upon our nation like a sword from Heaven.

The plan to divide Israel can be traced back to the Oslo Accords of 1992-1993, when President Clinton brokered a signing of this horrific plan to divide Israel between Israeli Prime Minister Rabin and Palestinian terrorist leader, Yasser Arafat. Since then, the Bush administration tried to push forward the plan, and engaged the Jews to pull out of the Gaza Strip. Now it appears the “final shove” is coming from President Obama as he tries to play to world opinion and the Muslim world. This may well be part of his strategy to become the next Secretary-General of the United Nations!

President Obama has recently told Prime Minister Netanyahu Israel must retreat to the pre-1967 borders. – which means that Israel will have to give up the Golan Heights overlooking the sea of Galilee which protects upper northern Israel, give up the Jezreel Valley which lies between the Jordan River and comes within 17 miles of the Mediterranean Sea.

Worst of all they would have to give up the Israeli presence in the Old City of Jerusalem and the Temple Mount – holy ground. God wants the Jews to take over the Temple Mount and has told them to rebuild his Temple, not to withdraw from the Old City of Jerusalem..

Those who curse Israel and divide up the land among the nations; those who force Israel to give up their land for peace, God says he will deal with a strong curse.

The Word of God says, “The curse causeless shall not come” (Proverbs 26:2). There is a cause for every effect. The prophet Amos wrote, “If a trumpet is blown in a city, will not the people be afraid? *If there is calamity in a city, will not the LORD have done it?*” (Amos 3:6).

The world as a whole has forgotten God. All nations today are deceived and following the wrong path (Rev.12:9).

The United States and western world are also headed into a period of divine judgment and calamity.

The apostle Peter tells us, “And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place. . . . Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit” (II Pet.1:19-21).

### *Israel – 1947-48*

One of the key marks to understand Bible prophecy and its final fulfillment is the establishment of the state of Israel in the Middle East in 1948. Israel became a nation on May 14, 1948 after not being a nation since the Roman Empire when they were sent into captivity (the diaspora) for almost 2000 years.

The Bible says that in the last days Judah would once again inhabit the coastlands of Judah in the Middle East. That is where Israel is reestablished today. Therefore 1948 is a very significant year in terms of the “end times”.

Jesus Christ the Messiah said, “Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door. I tell you the truth, THIS GENERATION shall certainly not pass away until all these things have happened” (Matt.24:32-34, NIV).

What did He mean by “this generation”? He is talking about the “fig tree.” The fig tree is a symbol of Israel! God says of Israel, When I found Israel, it was like finding grapes in the desert; when I saw your fathers, it was like seeing the early fruit on the fig tree” (Hosea 9:10).

Biblically speaking, “The days of our lives are seventy years; and if by reason of strength they are eighty years” (Psalm 90:10). Thus a Biblical “generation” would be 70 years, from birth to death, or 80 years. Israel, God’s nation, was voted into existence by the United Nations in November 1947, and was “born” on May 14, 1948. A “generation” could be 70 years. Thus Israel’s first generation could end in 2017-2018! This may well mean we are entering the final seven years of this age, before the soon coming of Christ the Messiah!

This is very interesting, because if we count 50 years (which is a Jubilee cycle of years) from 1947 it brings us to 1997 which is the year of the Six-Day War when Israel conquered the surrounding Arab nations – Egypt, Syria, Jordan-- miraculously. Israel captured the Sinai Peninsula, the Golan Heights of Syria, the West Bank of the Jordan River, eastern Jerusalem and the Temple Mount. That, you might say, would be the first Jubilee period after 1917.

Going backward from the year 1967 a Jubilee period of 50 years, you come to the year 1917, the year General Allenby defeated the Turks and recaptured Jerusalem and basically moved the Ottoman Empire out of Israel in World War I which saw the collapse of the Ottoman Empire of Turkey. Palestine became a British mandate. Going forward 50 years from 1967 brings us to 2017 A.D. Could this timeline point to the final seven years before the coming of the Messiah – the time of GREAT TRIBULATION in the earth?

*Has the world now crossed into that time frame? Is the Great Tribulation now staring us in the face?*

So then we have a Jubilee cycle from 1917 to 1967, then another one 1967 to 2017. I don't claim to know all the answers. However, *I do think it is very possible that we have begun the final countdown to the coming of the Messiah.*

### ***“This Generation”***

The Hebrew term which can be translated “the final generation” or “the last generation” or “the generation to come” is *ha dor ha acharon*. It means the time of the end or “the generation that comes”, or “*the generation at the end.*” Says *Gesenius Hebrew Lexicon*, “(1) *hinder, latter*, as opposed to former, foremost . . . (2) *after, later, following*, ‘after generation,’ Psalm 48:14, ‘after-time,’ Prov.31:25; Isa.30:18 . . . (3) *last*, Neh.8:18; Isa.44:6, ‘I (God) am the first, and I am the last’; Job 19:35. Fem. Adv. *At last, last*, Dan.11:29. Also Deut.13:10 and Num.2:31; Eccl.1:11, *at last, lastly.*”

Let's notice how this term applies to the last, final generation..

Deuteronomy 29:14-24—“The Lord made this covenant so that no man, woman or family of all the tribes of Israel should turn away from him to worship gods of other nations and so that no root would bear such poisonous and bitter fruit. Let no one who hears the words of this oath written in this book of the law bless himself in his heart and think he will have peace (be safe), even though he follows the dictates of his heart (goes his own way)—as though the drunkard could be included with the sober. The Lord would not spare him; for then the anger of the Lord and his jealousy will burn against that man and every curse that is written in this book would settle on him and the Lord would blot out his name from under heaven.

“So that *the generation to come* of your children that shall rise up after you, and the stranger that shall come from a far land, shall say, when they see the plagues of that land, and the sicknesses which the Lord has laid upon it; And that the whole land is brimstone, and salt that is burning, that it is not sown nor bearing, nor any grass grows therein, *like the over-throw of Sodom and Gomorrah, Adman, and Zeboim* which the Lord overthrew in his anger and his wrath. All nations shall ask, ‘Why has the Lord done this to the land? What is the meaning of this great anger?’”

Take note especially of the fact that *ha dor ha acharon* can just as readily be translated as “THE LAST GENERATION,” or “the FINAL generation.” *Acharon* means “hindmost, last in order, last of a series.” Or, simply, “last.”

We are the generation living during the time of the rebuilding of Jerusalem and the establishment of Israel in 1947-48. This is the generation that Christ was speaking of in Matthew 24 that are written for us today. Messiah said, beginning in verse 32, “Now learn a parable of the fig tree;” The fig tree is a type of Israel. “When his branch is yet tender and puts forth leaves you know that summer is near: so likewise you, when you shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors.”

This refers to the coming of Messiah. “Surely, *this generation* shall not pass, until *all these things be fulfilled.*”

### ***Daniel's 70 "Shavuot"***

In Daniel 9 we read about the 70 weeks (70 Shavuot) prophecy. "Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city until the measure of transgression is filled and that of sin is complete, until iniquity is expiated and eternal righteousness ushered in; and prophetic vision ratified, and the Holy of Holies anointed. You must know and understand: From the issuance of the word to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the [time of the] *anointed leader* is seven weeks . . ."

Let's figure it out!

In Daniel 9:25 we read, "Know and understand from the going forth of the word *to* (future tense) return and *to* (future tense) *rebuild Jerusalem* [in our time] to the coming of an Anointed One, a . . . shall be seven weeks" – that is, 7 weeks x 7 days or a total of 49 years, using the "day for a year" principle (Num.14:34; Ezek.4:6)..

$$7 \times 7 = 49 \text{ years!}$$

In 1948 Israel became a country again, but they did not possess the Old City of Jerusalem or the Temple Mount. Rather, the Jordanians and Palestinians possessed them. The Jews were given only the tiny sliver of land that was a small part of old Israel.

In the 1967 Six-Day war, Israel regained control of Jerusalem, the Temple Mount, all of the Sinai, Samaria, the Golan Heights, and Gaza. At this time another decree was issued to rebuild Jerusalem!

Jerusalem was rubble, but starting in 1967 it began to be rebuilt and is now a shining, resplendent NEW city on a hill.

### ***The End-Time Decree***

Prime Minister Menachem Begin of Israel sent a letter to President Jimmy Carter of the United States, at Camp David, Thurmont, Maryland, , saying:

17 September 1978

Dear Mr. President,

I have the honor to inform you, Mr. President, that on 28 June, 1967—Israel's Parliament (The Knesset) promulgated and adopted a law to the effect: 'the Government is empowered by a decree to apply the law, the jurisdiction and administration of the State to any part of Eretz Israel (land of Israel—Palestine as stated in that decree.

"On the basis of this law, the Government of Israel decreed in July 1967 that Jerusalem is one city indivisible, the Capital of the State of Israel. Sincerely, (signed) Menachem Begin."

The decree went forth in July 1967. What does the prophecy say?

"From the decree going forth to rebuild Jerusalem, shall be seven weeks . . ."

1967 A.D.  
49 years  
 2016 A.D.

### ***Sign of the Blood Red Moons***

2014-2015 was a time of four blood red moons – lunar eclipses occurring God’s annual holy days of Passover in the spring and Sukkot in the fall. A similar pattern of eclipses, called a “tetrad” occurred in 1967-68 and 1949-50.

This is prophetically significant!

There have been only 4 times in the last 500 years that blood moons occurred on Jewish feast days...these were 1493-4, the Spanish Inquisition, when the Catholic Church slaughtered thousands of Jews; 1949-1950, just after Israel fought for its independence and became a state; and 1967-68 when Israel fought the Six-Day War and liberated Jerusalem and the Temple Mount. Israel won back Jerusalem, and started the 2nd rebuilding of the city.

The tetrad of 2014-15 of this century was also significant. What does it mean? Could it be the year when the way is paved for the rebuilding of the temple of God? Could it be the final countdown of the last 7 years to the end of the age and the coming of the Messiah?

### ***“The Destroyer”***

We read in verse 27 that the end-time world leader (the “beast” – the one known as the “Antichrist”) “shall confirm the covenant (treaty-agreement) with *many* (nations) for one week and in the midst of the week (3 ½ years) he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation (offerings) to cease, and on the wing of abominations (set up object that desecrates the temple) he shall make it (temple) desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolator (destroyer).”

In the book of Revelation this figure is called *Abaddon* in Hebrew and *Apollyon* in Greek. Both words mean “Destroyer.”

He will be a destroyer of nations. God’s Word declares of him, “But it is in his heart to destroy, and cut off not a few nations” (Isa.10:7). The Amplified has this, “but it is in his mind to destroy and cut off many nations.” Moffatt puts it, “But other plans has he, and other aims! His thought is to exterminate the nations far and wide.”

This destroyer is also spoken of in Habakkuk 1. The prophet cries out to God of violence before him on the earth: those that raise up strife and contention. Wicked surrounds the righteous and twisted judgment continues. The law is powerless and justice never goes forth.

God tells Habakkuk in chapter 1, verse 5, “Look among the heathen, and watch and wonder marvelously: for I will work a work in your days, which you will not believe, though it be told you. I am raising the Chaldeans [end-time “Babylon the Great,” the “New World Order”], a bitter and hasty nation which shall march through the breadth of the land, to possess the dwelling places that are not theirs. They are terrible and dreadful: their judgment and their dignity shall proceed of themselves.”

God is talking about the end times and the New World Order, modern day Babylon that includes Europe and North America as the basis. They shall come all for violence and gather the captivity as the sand. They scoff at kings, scorn princes and deride every strong hold. In chapter 2 Habakkuk says he will stand his watch and see what God will say to him and what he will answer when He is reproved.

God tells Habakkuk to write the vision plainly, so that whoever reads it may RUN, for it is *yet for an appointed time* at the end. Wait for it, for it will surely come for it is true. This is something that we are to read, heed and take action that we may live through these intensified times.

### ***A World Writhing in Torment***

One of the signs Jesus Christ predicted that would foreshadow the Great Tribulation and set apart the days preceding His coming, is increased earthquakes around the world. He declared of the days prior to His arrival, “And there will be famines, pestilences, and *earthquakes* in various places” (Matt.24:7). Luke 21:11 says “And there will be GREAT earthquakes in various places.”

Are earthquakes intensifying and increasing around the world? In the last 25 years, the number of world earthquakes has increased from 11,000 to 32,000 a year, almost a 300 percent increase (source: U.S. Geological Department website). In the past ten years alone earthquakes that register 5.0 have increased 36 percent, above 6.0 by 34 percent, and above 7.0 by 39 percent.

Yeshua declared, “All these are the beginning of sorrows” (Matt.24:8).

### ***The Year 2016***

A leading Jewish rabbi known as the Chofetz Chaim foretold the Second and Third World Wars. On one occasion, Rabbi Yechezkel Levenstein said he heard the Chofetz Chaim say that there will be a second war which will cause the First World War to appear like child's play. There will then be a third war, which will make the second war appear like child's play.

A sense of dread and gloom fell over those listening, and Rav Shalom Schwadron found the courage to ask the Mashiach why it was necessary to utter such harsh words. Wouldn't it be preferable to simply daven (pray) to be saved from future harsh decrees?

The Mashgiach Rabbi Yechezkel Levenstein, became very agitated and said, “You completely misunderstood what the Chofetz Chaim intended with these words! The Chofetz Chaim's main intention was that there will be a dearth of emunah [faith, truth]! The dearth in emunah [faith, truth] during WWI was child's play compared to the dearth of emunah [faith, truth] during WWII, and the darkening of emunah [faith and truth] that will be during the third war will make everything previous seem like child's play.”

Says Adam Eliyahu Berkowitz, “Great Torah sage Rabbi Yisrael Meir Kagan, known as the Chofetz Chaim, predicted almost 100 years ago that a Third World War will begin 75 years after the beginning of World War II.

The great sages of Israel are known for their exegesis and study of Torah law. Their intense devotion to God with every waking breath frequently transcends the material world. As such, divine messages are given over to them to pass on to the nation.

The author of the monumental work known as the Mishana Berurah, the Chofetz Chaim outlined the basis of laws Ashkenazic Jews still observe to this day. What is not generally known about the Torah sage is that he was occasionally the recipient of divine messages.

According to the Hebrew language website Sod Hachashmal, in one such case, the Chofetz Chaim predicted the war preceding the messianic age.

According to the prediction, the Chofetz Chaim said, “I received from the holy spirit that we are on the verge of a horrific war, that will end in 1945 (תש״ה), but after that will come 10 sabbaticals to prepare for the messiah, and at the end of 10 sabbaticals which will end in the year 2015 (ה׳ע״ה), this is the time the messiah must come.”

$$\begin{array}{r} 1945 \\ \underline{\quad 70 \text{ years (10 Sabbaticals)}} \\ 2015 \end{array}$$

Declares Adam Eliyahu Berkowitz, “These were the words said by Rabbi Yosef Ben Porat, in the name of the Chofetz Chaim, who said during the First World War, that 25 years after it, another war will break out which will make the first one seem like a child’s game, and 75 years after that will come a third war, greater than the rest, making the second world war seem like a child’s game, and then the messiah will come. And just like the Second World War broke out 25 years after the beginning of the First World War, *the third one will begin 75 years after the beginning of the Second world War*” (September 9, 2015).

Has the Third World War now broken out? The war of Islamic jihad against the Western world?

Clearly, the final “countdown” to the coming of the Messiah has begun. The clock is now ticking.

The year 2016 began with a BANG – not a whimper. It charged out of the starting gates like a thoroughbred horse in the Kentucky Derby.

### ***Jeremiah’s Warning***

God looks upon our generation with great alarm and concern. He inspired Jeremiah the prophet to write, “This is what the LORD says: ‘When men fall down, do they not get up?’ When a man turns away, does he not return? Why then have these people turned away? They cling to deceit; they refuse to return. I have listened attentively but they do not say what is right. No one repents of his wickedness, saying, ‘What have I done?’ Each pursues his own course, like a horse charging into battle” (Jeremiah 8:4-6).

God declares, “From the least to the greatest, all are greedy for gain; prophets and priests alike, all practice deceit. They dress the wound of my people as though it were not serious. ‘Peace, peace’, they say, when there is no peace. Are they ashamed of their loathsome conduct? No, they have no shame at all; they do not even know how to blush. So they will fall among the fallen; they will be brought down when they are punished, says the LORD” (Jer.8:10-12).

God says of his people today, will they fall and not rise again? End-time Israel, including the “lost ten tribes,” Ephraim-America and Great Britain-Manasseh, have backslidden and remain in a perpetual backsliding holding fast to deceit, refusing to return. Deception abounds everywhere, especially in monetary matters.

“I listen and heard that they do not speak right. No man repents of his wickedness—saying “WHAT HAVE I DONE?” (Jer.8:6).

The prophet Jeremiah tells us about this time which he calls “the time of Jacob’s Trouble.” We read, . “The days are coming, says the Lord that I will bring again the captivity of my people Israel and Judah, and I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it. I hear a voice of trembling and of fear, not of peace. *Why do I see men with paleness of face with his hands on his loins as though in travail like a woman in labor giving birth?* Alas! That day is great, so that *none is like it*: it is the **time of Jacob’s trouble**; but he shall be saved out of it” (Jer.30:3-7).

### ***The Prophecy of Habakkuk***

Speaking of this end-time generation, and the end-time world kingdom which will dominate the world, God says to Habakkuk, “They all come for violence; their faces are set like the east wind. They gather captives like sand. They scoff at kings and princes are scorned by them. They deride every stronghold” (Hab.1:9-10).

Habakkuk even describes the leader of end-time Babylon! Notice! He writes, “Behold the proud. His soul is not upright (desires not right) in him; but the just shall live by faith. Indeed, because he transgresses by wine, he is a proud (arrogant) man. He does not stay at home” (Hab.2:4-5).

*Note:* Wine here is also a type of drugs (mind intoxicating chemicals, like alcohol, marijuana, cocaine, etc.). “He enlarges his desire as hell, and he is like death, and cannot be satisfied. He gathers to himself all nations, and heaps up for himself all peoples” (v.5, latter part).

“Woe to him who increases what is not his—how long? And to him who loads himself with many pledges [vast indebtedness and borrowing from other nations]? Will not your creditors [among the nations] rise up suddenly? Will they not awaken who oppress you? And YOU will become their booty, because you have plundered many nations, all the remnant of the people shall plunder you” (Hab.2:6-8).

“Woe to him who covets evil gain for his houses that he may set his nest on high that he may be delivered from the power of disaster! You give shameful counsel to your house, cutting off many peoples, and sin against your soul. For the stone will cry out from the wall, and the beam from the timbers will answer it” (vs.9-11).

What is this “shameful counsel”? What kind of sin is “against your own soul” or body? Homosexuality! Is it any wonder that President Obama has made June the month of “Gay Pride”?

“Cutting off many peoples” means going to war at the drop of a hat, and invading nations where there is no real justification, nations which have not endangered us or attacked us. America never used to do this. Throughout our history, we never struck the first blow. But we fought back when we were attacked – the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Mexican War, the Spanish American War, the First World War, the Second World War, Korea, Vietnam.

However, that all changed with the Bush administration in 1990. George H.W. Bush attacked Iraq even though Iraq had not attacked or threatened America. He sought to forge a “New World Order” by leading a coalition of nations against Iraq. His example was followed by William Clinton in Kosovo, George W. Bush in Afghanistan and Iraq, and Barack Obama/Hillary Clinton in Libya and Syria!

God says, “Woe to him that builds a town with bloodshed, who establishes a city by iniquity (crime)! Behold, it is not of the Lord of Hosts that the people labor to feed (fuel) the fire, and the nations weary themselves for vanity (pride/ uselessness; exhaust themselves for nothing).” (Hab.2:12-13).

### *Daniel's Purview*

The prophet Daniel also talks about this same time of Jacob’s Trouble. We read in verse 1 of chapter 12, “At that time shall Michael stand up the great prince which stands for the children of your people: and there shall be *a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation* even to that same time and at that time your people shall be delivered, *every one that shall be found written in the book.*”

Daniel is told by God to shut up the words, and seal the book **UNTIL** the TIME OF THE END. “Many shall run to and fro and knowledge shall be increased. Many shall be refined and turn to righteousness others shall continue to do wickedly (will not change-don’t get the point). But the wise shall understand.”

Who are the wise? The wise are those who fear God and keep his commandments; do not mock or doubt prophecy, or scoff at the word of God, but believe and follow Christ. Job declares, “Behold the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom and to depart from evil, is understanding” (Job 28:28).

It is simple. If we desire to escape the traumas and horror soon to engulf this planet, and to be protected through the harrowing days ahead, then we must turn to God; we must determine to obey all of God’s commandments. In principle, we are to obey any commandment that God gives.

In Matthew 4:4 Christ said, “it written, man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God”. Christ taught obedience to the Torah. He said in Matthew 5:17 “Think not that I am come to destroy the law [the Torah] or the prophets. I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill.” He came not to nail the law to the cross, or do away with the law.

He came to show us how beautiful the law is, and how to keep it in order to receive life. He came to MAGNIFY it and to make it honorable (Isa.42:21).

### *The White Horse*

The apostle John writes in vivid prose:

*“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” (Rev.6:2).*

What is this white horse? One church claims it is false religion, or religious deception, sweeping the world. Why? Because the rider has a “bow,” but when Christ returns He will have a “sword” (Rev.19:15). But does this make sense? No one to my knowledge even suggests or claims this horseman represents Christ! As I have just said, a “horse” represents WAR, or a war-waging military power – not religion, or false religion!

Often, in Scripture, God is pictured as waging war by shooting arrows from a bow (Deut.32:23, 42) as well as a sword (Deut.32:41-42). Job speaks of the “arrows of the Almighty” (Job 6:4). God says in Zechariah, “When I have bent Judah for me, and filled the bow with Ephraim” (Zech.9:13). And verse 14, “And the LORD shall be seen over them, and his arrow shall go forth as the lightning.” This is talking about WAR – not religious deception! The fact that this horseman uses a bow and not a sword makes no difference one way or the other! It proves nothing as to the identity of the horseman!

The white horse represents a war-making power. But which one? How do we identify it?

“White” is a symbol of righteousness (Rev.19:8). This nation, or world power, then historically has exercised its power on the behalf of freedom, liberty, democracy, and “righteousness,” attempting to fight oppression, tyranny, and evil around the world!

To further explain this end-time prophecy, turn to Zechariah chapter 6. In the New King James Version we read: “Then I turned and raised my eyes and looked, and behold, FOUR CHARIOTS [like the four beasts] were coming from between two mountains, and the mountains were mountains of bronze. With the first chariot were RED HORSES, with the second chariot BLACK HORSES, with the third chariot WHITE HORSES, and with the fourth chariot DAPPLED HORSES – strong steeds. Then I answered and said to the angel who talked with me, ‘What are these, my lord?’ And the angel answered and said to me, ‘These are four spirits of heaven, who go out from their station before the Lord of all the earth. The one with the BLACK horses is going to the NORTH country [the “king of the north”!], the white are going after them, and the dappled are going toward the south country.’ Then the strong steeds went out, eager to go, that they might walk to and fro throughout the earth. And He said, ‘Go, walk to and fro throughout the earth.’ So they walked to and fro throughout the earth. And He called to me, and spoke to me, saying, ‘See, those who go toward the north country have given rest to My Spirit in the north country’” (Zech.6:1-8).

Does this strange prophecy connect with the four beasts of Daniel 7? Notice, they are also connected with “four spirits” or four “winds” of heaven (v.5). Let’s read this passage in the

Jewish Tanakh:

“The horses of the first chariot were bay [red], the horses of the second chariot were black; the horses of the third chariot were white, and the horses of the fourth chariot were spotted – dappled.”

The angel told Zechariah,

“Those are the FOUR WINDS OF HEAVEN coming out after presenting themselves to the Lord of all the earth. The one with the BLACK horses is going out to the region of the NORTH; the *white* ones have gone out *to what is to the WEST of them*; the spotted ones have gone out to the region of the SOUTH; and the dappled ones have gone out . . . .”

Why does the Tanakh say the white horses went out to the “WEST”? The King James says only that they went out after the black horses, which went to the north. The marginal reading in the Tanakh says, “Cf. ‘ahor, ‘west,’ Isa.9:11. Emendation yields ‘the region of the west.’” The Companion Bible, also, in a marginal comment on verse 6, concerning the white horses going ‘after them,’ says, “after them: or, to the west of them” (p.1986).

Concerning the phrase, “the dappled ones have gone out . . .”, the Tanakh has a footnote, here, which reads, “Emendation yields ‘the bay ones will go out to the REGION OF THE EAST.’” Thus these four chariots and horses are connected with the four regions of the earth -- north, west, south and east!

In expounding this passage, the *Jamieson, Fausset and Brown Critical, Experimental Commentary* says: “6. The black horses which are therein go forth into the north country -- Babylon. . . . ‘The black horses’ go to Babylon, primarily to represent the awful desolation with which Darius [a type of Christ] visited it in the fifth year of his reign” (p.677). The black horses, and north country, then, are connected with the “north wind” – or Babylon! Today, that kingdom is centered in Europe!

The commentary continues, “and the grisled go forth toward the south – i.e., TO EGYPT, the other great foe of God’s people.” Certainly, the land of the “south” means south of Palestine, or Judea, and would include Africa and the Arab nations, led primarily by Egypt!

What about the “red” horses, then, which went to the EAST, according to the Tanakh? In the eastern hemisphere lies the kingdoms of RUSSIA and CHINA – the preponderance of the continent of ASIA! The color of “red” reminds us unequivocally of Russia, the “Reds,” “red flag” of Communism, the “Red Square” in Moscow, the red star on Soviet military equipment, the red hammer and sickle of the Russian flag. Red is connected with Russia. Thus the red horses and chariot are connected with Russia and China – the “Communist” nations!

Russia is also connected with the “bear” sign – the “Russian Bear,” is a common term used to refer to the Russian military forces. This red horse then represents the same world power as the bear of Daniel 7.

The black horse identifies with Babylon-Europe and Assyria-Germany. Germany is the

land of the Iron chancellor Bismark, the iron cross, the black cross, the Nazi symbolism, the black uniforms of the Nazi storm troopers and the Waffen S.S. and Gestapo -- the color of Germany and Babylon is "black."

The "spotted" or "dappled" horses are connected with the "king of the south" -- the Muslim nations of the Middle East and Africa. This corresponds with the 'spotted' leopard beast of Daniel 7 -- the beast of the southern kingdom, Africa! This kingdom figures prominently in the last days as attacking the "king of the north." We read, "At the TIME OF THE END *the king of the South shall ATTACK him*; and the king of the North shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter the countries, overwhelm them, and pass through. . . He shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape" (Dan.11:40-42).

What, then, about the white horses that went westward? What kingdom do they represent? They went out to the "WEST." Since we have identified the kingdoms of the north, south, and east, what is the kingdom of the west? Obviously, the white horses that went west are connected with the great world kingdom that lies in the western hemisphere! Since the red horses are Russia and China, the bear of Daniel 7; the grisled horses represent Egypt and the Arabs, the leopard of Daniel 7; and the black horses are Assyria-Babylon (modern Europe), representing the nondescript terrible beast of Daniel 7; then the white horses must represent the remaining *western kingdom* of Daniel 7 -- the "lion"-like kingdom with *eagle's wings*.

What great nation or group of nations in the WEST are "lion" hearted, and have "eagle's wings"? This can be none other than the United States of America and Britain and the Anglo-Saxon nations -- the English speaking nations which dominate the Western hemisphere and Western Europe! There are over 3,000,000 Jews in America, and God compares "Judah" to "a lion's whelp" who "lies down as a lion, and as a lion, who shall rouse him?" (Gen.49:9).

Of Joseph, Jacob prophesied, "The archers have bitterly grieved him, shot at him and hated him. But his *bow abode in strength*, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the Mighty God of Jacob (from there is the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel)" (Gen.49:23-24). The two sons of Joseph, Ephraim and Manasseh, were to inherit the "birthright promises" of vast lands and natural resources in the earth (Gen.48:12-20; 49:25-26). Balaam prophesied of Israel, which includes the dominant sons of Joseph, "They shall devour enemy nations, crush their bones, and smash their arrows. They crouch, they lie down like a lion. Like the king of beasts, who dare rouse them?" (Num.24:8-9).

Once again America's mighty air power was being demonstrated before the eyes of all the world, in the day and night bombings of the Taliban forces in Afghanistan! Cruise missiles, F-16s, B-1 bombers, B-2 bombers, B-52 stratofortresses, and other incredible new weapons, are wreaked havoc in that country, in an attempt to flush out and destroy the nests of Bin Laden terrorists.

The United States has been like a strong "lion" during the 20th century. It has the world's most powerful air force -- symbolized by "eagle's wings." It was the difference in victory in World War I, World War II, led the western coalition against Iraq in the Gulf War, stopped the advance of Communism in Korea, and fought for years in Vietnam, finally pulling out in 1975, after more than ten years of bitter conflict. No nation has been more lion-like, both

in prestige, and power, in the twentieth century than the United States. Although it is a mixed population, with many Gentiles living within its borders, it is the end-time tribe of Joseph -- the tribe of Ephraim -- and Britain is primarily the descendants of Manasseh, Joseph's older son. The two sons together have dominated the earth for the past two centuries -- Britain in the 19th century, and America in the 20th century.

This chariot of white horses – this first kingdom of Daniel 7 – represents the Anglo-Saxon nations of America and Britain and their fellows. The color “white,” itself, symbolizes righteousness (Rev.19:8), and many of the wars our people have been engaged in have been “righteous wars” in the defense of freedom, liberty, and democracy. But our righteousness, unfortunately, has become as filthy rags in God's sight (Isa.1:2-10; Isa.64:6). God has now removed His protection from us, because we have forsaken Him and transgressed His immutable laws (see Leviticus 26 and Deut.28).

The “white” horse is therefore connected with the west (Zech.6:6, Tanakh). It represents a mighty military power in the “West.” Historically, this was the Macedonian Empire, under Alexander the Great, a descendant of the tribe of Dan. Which nation or group of nations would that represent, today? Why, the United States and Great Britain, and their allies! The United States, in the western hemisphere, was largely responsible for saving the world in World War I, World War II, fending off Communism in Korea and Vietnam. George Bush led the U.S. to victory against Saddam Hussein, of Babylon-Iraq, in the Gulf War, like a latter-day Alexander.

Suffice it to say here, the “white” horse – white is a symbol of righteousness – represents end-time Israel, primarily the leadership tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh – the United States of America and United Kingdom and Canada – going forth to save the world from totalitarianism and enslavement during the twentieth century. Our nations saved the world for “democracy” and freedom from the scourge of World War I, Nazism and World War II, and Communism since that time! The United States saved South Korea from the invasion of North Korea, fought the Communists in Vietnam, and led the fight against Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

The United States has been “riding high” since the end of World War II. It is currently regarded as the world's only remaining “superpower.” Nevertheless, it is beginning to wear out its welcome around the world. Its claim to greatness is beginning to wear a mite “thin.”

The United States in Biblical prophecy is none other than Ephraim, the birth-right holder of the sons of Joseph – see my book *America and Great Britain – Our Identity Revealed: Ephraim and Manasseh in the End of Days*.

### ***The Olivet Prophecy***

Matthew 24:12-22 also speaks of the end of the age. Here, Christ, the Word, Yeshua the Messiah says to His disciples (and especially those of us living at the end of the age today), “Because sin (lawlessness) shall abound, the love of many shall wax (grow) cold.” He continues, “But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

“When you therefore shall see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place (whoso reads this let him understand) those who are in Judea flee into the mountains.”

“Pray your flight be not in winter or on the Sabbath day. For then *shall be great tribulation*, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. *Except those days should be shortened*, there should be no flesh saved: but for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened.”

These frightful days have begun. The plague has begun. The time of Great Tribulation has begun. The beginning of the Great Tribulation is here . . . *now*. The year 2016 began with a BANG – not a whimper! As the poet Yeats in “The Second Coming” wrote:

“Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold;  
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,  
The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere  
The ceremony of innocence is drowned;  
The best lack all conviction, while the worst  
Are full of passionate intensity.”

### ***Luke’s Prophetic Warning***

The gospel of Luke also talks about the end of the age. Speaking of these tremulous times of uproar and instability, Christ declared, “In your patience possess your souls” (Luke 21:19).

We must learn patience. I find that patience is one of the hardest lessons for people to learn. They want things, and they want it NOW. Our society has gotten used to “instant” gratification – coffee, potatoes, puddings, microwavable food, and automats to name a few items.

He continues, “When you see Jerusalem encompassed about by armies, you know the desolation is near.” Today, Israel is surrounded by Arab nations that hate the Jews and are united in desiring to wipe out the nation of Israel.

These are the beginning days of the Great Tribulation and the days of vengeance!

These are the days of Daniel’s 70<sup>th</sup> week in Daniel 9. The final seven years of this age appear to be upon us now. I know people say we can’t understand or know the time of Messiah’s return, but they don’t pay close attention to the word of God and prophecy. Fear of the Lord is the beginning of understanding and wisdom.

Christ declared, “When Jerusalem is surrounded by armies, know (RECOGNIZE) that the desolation (the time of its destruction) is near. Let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart (get out of the city), and let not those who are in the country enter the city. For these are the *days of vengeance*, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. For there will be GREAT DISTRESS in the land and wrath upon this people. And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

“And there will be *signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars*; and on the earth distress of nations with *perplexity* (not knowing what is happening), the *sea and waves roaring*: men’s hearts will fail them for fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then all will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now *when these things begin to happen*, look and lift your heads, because your redemption (salvation—kingdom of God) draws near” (Luke 21:20-28).

In the *NLT*, it has it, “For those will be the days of God’s vengeance, and the prophetic words of the Scriptures will be fulfilled.” In the *NIV* we read: “For this is the time of punishment in fulfillment of all that has been written. Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.”

Great signs are beginning to occur in the solar system, and many more solar flares and large coronal storms have occurred in recent years. These storms can knock out the world’s electronics and destroy the world’s communication systems.

### ***The END Has Come***

Our end is coming and God’s judgments are beginning to fall. This time is spoken of in Ezekiel 7:2-10—the time of the end!

“An end, the end has come upon the four corners of the land. NOW the end has come upon you, and I will send My anger against you: I will judge you according to your ways, and I will repay you for all your ABOMINATIONS” (Ezekiel 7:2-3).

“A disaster, a singular disaster; Behold, it has come! An END has come, THE END has come, it has dawned for you; Behold, it has come! DOOM has come to you, you who dwell in the land, the TIME has come, a day of trouble is near” (Ezek.7:5-7).

“Behold, the day! Behold, it has come! DOOM has gone out; the rod has blossomed, pride has budded. Violence has risen up into a rod of wickedness . . . the time has come, the day draws near . . .” (vs.10-12).

We are living in the “END” time and God’s anger is going to be sent upon people and He will judge their ways and He will repay everyone for their abominations without pity. “*Then you shall know that I AM the Lord Eternal and Creator, your judge who strikes. The end has come. I will pour out my fury.*”

### ***A Final Warning***

After telling his disciples about the signs of the end of the age, Christ then told them the parable about the fig tree and all the trees. “When they are budding, you see and know of your own selves that summer is near at hand. Likewise, when you see these things taking place, know (recognize) that the Kingdom of God is near at hand. I assuredly say to you, *this generation* (the

generation that sees these things) shall not pass away, until all these things take place (are fulfilled). Heaven and earth shall pass away but my words by no means will pass away.

“Take heed to yourselves (watch your heart) lest at anytime your hearts be weighed down with dissipation (wasting life, drunkenness, cares and anxieties) of this life, and that Day will close on you unexpectedly (catch you unawares) like a trap. It will come upon everyone who dwells on the face of the earth. Therefore, *WATCH! PRAY always* (continually and consistently daily) that you may be one of those counted worthy (may have strength) to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man” (Luke 21:29-36).

We have begun to experience plagues today around the world like never before. Revolution is raging in countries throughout the Middle East—Egypt, Tunisia, Yemen, Syria, Libya, and a horde of millions of Muslim “refugees” is threatening the stability of Europe. America is also threatened as refugees pour into our land from Syria, without having been properly vetted by authorities. ISIS terrorists are undoubtedly lurking in their midst, like the soldiers in the “Trojan horse” in ancient history.

Surely the end has come. The plagues have begun. The end is here. As the Messiah said, “All these are the beginning of sorrows” (Matt.24:8).

Moffat has this: “For nation will rise against nation, and realm against realm; there will be famines and earthquakes here and there. All that is but the *beginning of the trouble.*”

The Living Bible: “But all this will be *only the beginning* of the horrors to come.”

The Amplified-Parallel Bible: “All this is but the beginning [the early pains] of the *birth pangs* [of the intolerable anguish].”

The Greek word translated “sorrows” here in the New King James Version is *odin* and means, “a pang or throe, especially of childbirth – pain, sorrow, travail.”

When you see a storm coming, the prudent thing to do is to make preparations. *Prudence* is the use of caution or good judgment in the conduct of one’s business.

- Proverbs 16:25—“there is a way that *seems right* to a man; but its end is the way of death.” See also Proverbs 14:12.
- Proverbs 14:15—“a simple man believes anything, but a prudent gives thought (carefully considers) to his steps.
- Proverbs 19:16—“he who keeps the commandments keeps (protects) his soul; but he who is careless (reckless and despises commandments) will die.”
- Proverbs 22:3—a prudent man foresees evil (recognizes danger) and hides himself (takes precautions); the simpleton (SIMPLE-MINDED) goes blindly on and is punished (suffers the consequences).” (see also Proverbs 27:12)
- Proverbs 28:12—when the righteous rejoice (triumph), there is great glory (elation); but when the wicked rise to power, men hide (literally –“will be searched for”) themselves. Are you thinking ahead? What would you do if there were no food or water supplies in Walmart, Safeway, or other major food stores? Do you have an emergency supply on

hand?

Think about growing and preserving your food.

Wise king Solomon saw that “man also, does not know his time (when his hour will come). Like fish taken up in a cruel net, like birds caught in a snare, so the sons of men are trapped (snared) by evil times that fall unexpectedly (suddenly upon them)” (Ecclesiastes 9:12). In the Amplified Bible, we read: “Man knows not his time of death. As fishes are taken in an evil net, and as birds are caught in the snare, so are the sons of man caught in an evil time when calamity (tragedy) falls suddenly upon them.”

In an earnest, final warning, Jesus Christ, Yeshua, said to His disciples, particularly for those living in our age, today: “Take heed to yourselves and be on your guard, lest your hearts be overburdened and depressed (weighed down) with the giddiness and headache and nausea of self-indulgence, drunkenness, and worldly worries and cares pertaining to (the business of) this life, and (lest) that day come upon you suddenly like a trap or a noose. For it will come upon all who live upon the face of the entire earth.

“Keep awake then and watch at all times (be discreet, attentive, and ready), praying that you may have the full strength and ability and be accounted worthy to escape all these things (taken together) that will take place, and *to stand in the presence of the Son of Man.*” (Luke 21:34-36).

The apostle Peter declares, “But the end of all things is at hand. Therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers. And above all things, have fervent love for one another, for love will cover a multitude of sins” (I Peter 4:7-8).

“Now the end of all is near. Steady then, keep cool and pray! Above all, be keen to love one another, for love hides a host of sins” (Moffatt).

“But the end and culmination of all things has now come near; keep sound minded and self restrained and alert therefore for [the practice of] prayer. Above all things have intense and unflinching love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins [forgives and disregards the offenses of others]” (Amplified-Parallel Bible).

Are you getting ready and preparing soberly?

The apostle Paul declared, “For when they say ‘Peace and safety!’ then SUDDEN DESTRUCTION comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so this Day should overtake you as a thief. You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.

“Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us WATCH and be sober [margin, “self-controlled”]. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. But let us who are of the day be SOBER, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ” (I Thess.5:3-9).